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# Abraham Lincoln's Cabinet

Edwin Stanton (2)

Excerpts from newspapers and other  
sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

August 12, 1981

Lincoln National Life Foundation  
Fort Wayne, Ind. 46801

Dear Sir:

From the research I have done and from speaking with some of my allies, I have found that your institution is one of the most devoted to the procurement, care, study, and display of objects of lasting interest or value in the United States; and, this, of course, I feel you would be pleased to know. I am extremely interested in historical collections and am enthused to share with you a memorabilia I have in my possession at the present.

The object I speak of is a bookcase which belonged to Mr. Stanton, Secretary of War in President Lincoln's Cabinet. It has been explained to me that this is the very bookcase in which Mr. Stanton placed his money many, many times. I have been able to trace the ownership of the valuable item back to Lincoln's Secretary of War. Dr. Stanton, nephew of Edwin M. Stanton, was second to take over the possession of this bookcase. It was then given to Dr. Frank Scheerer by his dear friend and benefactor, Dr. Stanton. Once again the bookcase took on new owners when Dr. Scheerer turned it over to his daughter, Mrs. Catherine S. Kendall, wife of John Kendall and who is still living in Paducah, Kentucky. This is how it came into my hands, the hands of Carl Kendall from Martin, Tenn.

I am greatly honored to have the bookcase in my possession now; while, yet, on the other hand, my wife and I in our later years feel compelled to sell this historical piece of furniture. We both would be very pleased to have this authentic memorabilia on exhibition in the Lincoln National Life Foundation. I have enclosed a picture of this bookcase to give you some idea of what it is I'm speaking.

I'm proposing that if you have found this information to be appealing, please make me a fair offer for the bookcase. As I said before, my wife and I have discussed that we would like to add this valuable antique to your collection for a reasonable sum. I feel I have all the data you would need concerning Stanton's bookcase. You may write me at the following address: Mr. Carl Kendall, 203 Poplar St., Martin, TN 38237.

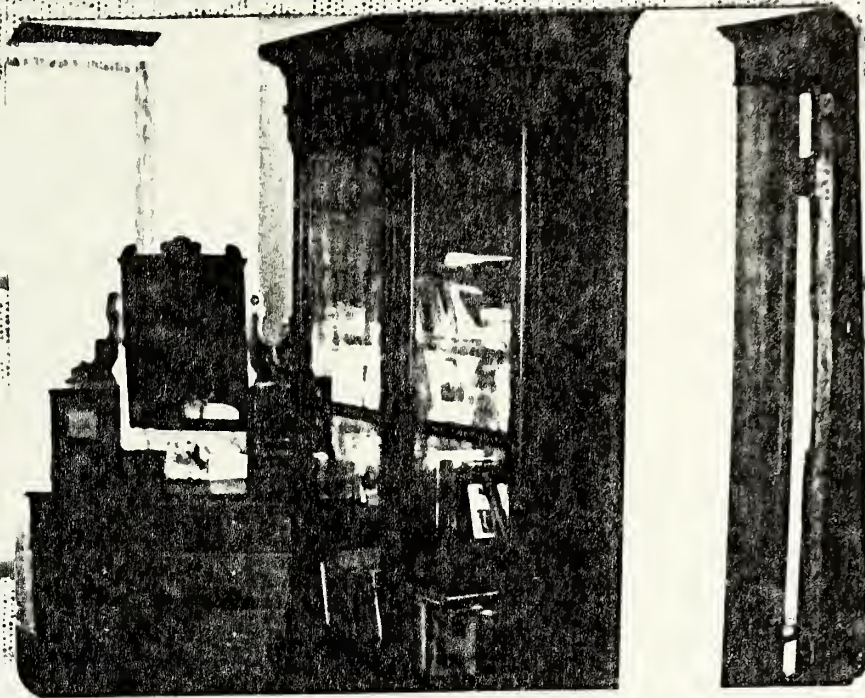
Thank you for your time in reading this letter, and if I can assist you in any way with more facts, please feel free to contact me. I wait diligently for your response to this proposal.

Truly yours,

*Carl Kendall*  
Carl Kendall

tdk  
Enclosure







THE LOUIS A. WARREN  
LINCOLN LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

1300 SOUTH CLINTON STREET / FORT WAYNE, INDIANA 46801

MARK E. NEELY, JR.  
Director

September 14, 1981

Telephone (219) 424-5421

Mr. Carl Kendall  
203 Poplar Street  
Martin, Tennessee 38237

Dear Mr. Kendall:

We'd like to learn more about the bookcase. Do you have documentation for the provenance you described in your letter? When did Edwin M. Stanton own it, and where did he keep the bookcase--at home or in the office? We prefer not to make offers. We ask that potential sellers decide on a price and state it. We'll tell you promptly whether we can meet it or not. I'll hang on to your photograph until I hear from you again. Many thanks for contacting us.

Sincerely yours,

*Mark E. Neely Jr*  
Mark E. Neely, Jr.

MEN/vpg

October 6, 1981

Dear Mr. Mark Neeley Jr.

In response to your letter on September 14, 1981 I have enclosed a photo copy of a letter from Mrs. Catherine Kendall. Mrs. Kendall is the person that we purchased the bookcase from. Now in her mid-seventies she recalls the history of this item. I hope this letter is confirmation as to the original owner Mr. Edwin Stanton.

Sir my wife and I are now in our latter years of seventy and really have no idea of the value of such an item. If you would be so kind please help us in this matter. Simply state us an offer and we will be glad to let you know of our decision. Thanks for your time we appreciate it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carl Kendall". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Carl Kendall



...  
I am sure that this book took a long time to  
bring. My father, was part of the editing  
into the Medical Journal at U.C.L.A. California  
until he retired, searching for and found the  
information on 13 year of the state of the  
Medical Journal. He made it to me when it  
arrived at yesterday. He did not know any  
more about the book than do

Edwin McPherson Stanton, b. 1814 d. 1869, the  
Secretary of War in Lincoln's cabinet, gave, or  
willed, the book case to his nephew, Dr. Byron  
Stanton, b. 1834, d. 1923. I do not know the  
date on this.

Dr. Byron Stanton probably kept the bookcase  
in his office or waiting room, and when he  
retired, he gave it to his home.

He gave the book case and its charge, to  
my father, Dr. Frank Scherer in 1915 or 16.

Dr. Scherer got his medical training at  
the University of Cincinnati Medical School.  
Dr. Stanton was one of his professors. They  
were good friends as long as Dr. Stanton  
lived. Dr. Scherer kept the bookcase in his  
waiting room.

The book case was given to me, 1973 or 4.



Dear Mr. [unclear];

I do not know if this is [unclear] to  
you but it was the [unclear] [unclear]  
and on the [unclear].

With love to your both,

Dr. [unclear]

21

*The Ohio State*

MEDICAL JOURNAL

February, 1924

land in 1921. He became associated with the Cleveland Clinic, specializing in gastro-intestinal diseases. He was a pioneer in X-ray work in Ohio and was widely known as a diagnostician. His widow and one daughter survive.

*Byron Stanton, M.D.*, Miami Medical College, Cincinnati, 1857; aged 89; retired member Ohio State Medical Association; died at his home in Cincinnati, December 22, after an illness of only two days with angina pectoris. Dr. Stanton served with the rank of major as surgeon of the 120th Ohio Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War. He resumed practice in Cincinnati in 1869, and in 1877 was appointed to the faculty of his alma mater. He resigned that position in 1909, and since that time has been emeritus professor of diseases of women and children. Besides holding many medical offices and attaining many professional honors, Dr. Stanton served the city for two years as a member of the Cincinnati city council, two years as a member of the board of alderman and as health officer from 1886 to 1890. For six years he was a member of the board of medical advisors of the Cincinnati Hospital, and from April, 1893, to January, 1911, he was a member of the Ohio state board of health. He also served as its president for three years. *W. H. H.*

Kendall

November 23, 1981

Mr. Carl Kendall  
203 Poplar Street  
Martin, Tennessee 38237

Dear Mr. Kendall:

I know that it is difficult to decide on the worth of such an item, but it is our policy to ask people who wish to sell items to set a price themselves. If we were to do it, it might some day lead to a complaint that we did not offer full value for the item. While you are thinking about it, we'll be considering the information in the interesting letter you sent.

Sincerely yours, ,

MEN/jaf

Mark E. Neely, Jr.



# EDWIN STANTON:

## A Man of History and Mystery

By Richard L. McElroy

Each time in passing the Jefferson County, Ohio, courthouse in Steubenville I stop to gaze at the statue of Edwin McMasters Stanton. As I ponder the impressive work, many thoughts come to mind. Highly intelligent, Stanton was a man of many moods and idiosyncracies. He was, among other things, courageous, unpredictable, energetic, rude, honest, disobedient, contradictory, and extremely emotional. There was also Stanton the patriot who, on the eve of the Civil War, revealed a plotted overthrow within President Buchanan's cabinet. After dismissing the traitors, Buchanan rewarded the Ohio Democrat by appointing him U.S. Attorney General.

Stanton's political success was a struggle. After attending Kenyon College for a short time, he was forced to leave due to a lack of funds. Though discouraged, he was determined to study law, and in 1836 was admitted to the Ohio Bar. As a promising young lawyer he moved to Pittsburg, then to Washington, D.C., where his reputation in federal courts brought him into contact with influential politicians. Stanton was an abolitionist and his views against the institution of slavery were well known.

From his earliest years of manhood, Stanton had a morbid fear of death. He seemed to completely lose his senses when a friend or relative died and this instability was witnessed in a number of instances. For example, in 1833 a young lady who lived at the boardinghouse where he stayed died of cholera and was quickly buried. That very night Stanton dug her up, for he could not believe that the same woman who had served him lunch just hours before was actually dead. In 1841 his daughter, Lucy, died. The saddened father exhumed her body and kept it in his room for nearly two years. But the most severe blow came in 1844 when he lost his wife. As she lay in her coffin at the house, the widower constantly dressed and redressed the body, adorning her with jewelry and reading her love letters while he sobbed uncontrollably. At night he walked about the house asking for her. And later when his brother committed suicide by slashing his jugular vein, Stanton went berserk and ran off into the woods only to be rescued by a friend.

Thus, there was great concern for Edwin Stanton and his mental condition. After remarrying, he seemed to regain strength and a more positive attitude. By turning his attention to his work, he hoped to forget some of his problems.

Deeply depressed, Stanton rose above his problems



Edwin McMasters Stanton  
Born In Steubenville, Ohio in 1814

of family tragedy. The Civil War era called for men of strong character and leadership, and when President Lincoln sought a replacement for the corrupt Secretary of War Simon Cameron, he appointed Stanton. Lincoln had no use for "yes men" and desired a person who was not only honest, but someone who could drive others as hard as he drove himself. The Ohioan, having switched party lines to join the Republican ranks, soon turned the War Office from a den of graft into an efficient, well-organized body.

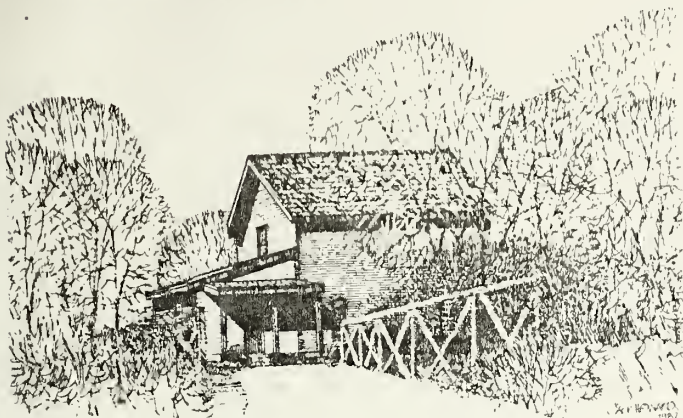
The new secretary ran the office with an iron hand and worked unceasingly in supervising the war effort of the North. Many of Stanton's decisions were quite contrary to Lincoln's policy of benevolence and generosity. He provoked violent quarrels with nearly every Union military commander and was also accused of withholding important information from the President. Nevertheless, Edwin Stanton played a major role in defeating the Confederacy and preserving the Union. After Lincoln's death he became one of the leading Radical Republicans and tried to oust Andrew Johnson from the White House. When this failed he resigned from office and returned to private practice.

(Continued on page 4)



## OHIO MUSEUM

(Continued from page 2)



The Canal Museum

begins at Excello on South Main Street. Here is a small park in which is preserved the first lock built on the Miami-Erie Canal. Official Ohio Historical Society signs are at the city's entrances. There is a special marker at the site of Port Middletown on the canal.

At Middletown's first completed lock stood a locktender's house. When it had to be dismantled to make way for an industrial development, detailed drawings were made of the house, and an effort made to save some of the materials it contained. It took twenty years to raise the necessary funds and collect items for the museum, but then the Middletown Historical Society with the original plans was able to reconstruct the house as a Museum.

Into it contractor, Lawrence McMonigle, a specialist in historical restorations, incorporated historic materials into the very structure. For in addition to timbers and bricks from the original structure, he found great beams from the covered

bridges that once stood at Miltonville, and used parts of beams that had to be replaced in the famous Germantown bridge. Each major item in the building has its own history, from the steps to the chimney.

The very location of the building is of interest, for it is on the banks of the hydraulic, once a part of the old Miami-Erie canal. The waters still flow by on their way to a local paper mill to furnish power and cooling water. It stands on a piece of land between the Hydraulic and the former canal towpath.

The interior is filled with items from the old canal and illustrates the life and times of the locktender. Model rooms are furnished as of 100 years ago. A unique feature are the original paintings and drawings of the canal artist, Herbert Fall; the museum contains the largest collections of such canal art in the state. While the house is furnished as a museum, there is a miniature house, furnished as in the days of the Locktender. Many of the occupants of the house were located through the years and interviewed, to aid in the reconstruction. After serving as the residence of the locktender, the house became a general residence until its demolition in 1963.

A patch along the hydraulic's shore adds further to the visit. There is even a monument to the hydraulic on the approach to the museum. For those dedicated canallers following the hydraulic, there are the headgates built in 1910, a massive structure, still standing, but no longer in use, being replaced by a modern headgate structure.

There is also the historic state dam, which fed the old canal in the Dayton to Cincinnati stretch, and which still diverts water to the hydraulic. Such sections of this, remnants of the Ohio Canal system, have recently been declared a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark, by the American Society of Engineers, joining such other works as the Erie Canal of New York and the Brooklyn Bridge.

## EDWIN STANTON

(Continued from page 3)

Such an active and fruitful career in itself was a matter of controversy, but there is more to the story of this mysterious statesman. The degree of Stanton's loyalty may be questioned in the events leading up to and following the night of April 14, 1865. The assassination of Abraham Lincoln has never been fully explained and circumstantial evidence links Stanton with Booth and the conspirators. The murder of Lincoln was by no means an open and shut case and the facts deserve further attention and examination.

Stanton's severe criticism of Lincoln had its beginning years before both men became prominent national figures. After having met Lincoln in a Cincinnati courtroom, Stanton inquired, "Where did that long-armed creature come from?", adding further that the "original species of gorilla" could be found not in Africa but in Springfield, Illinois. It came as a surprise to everyone when Lincoln named Stanton

to succeed Cameron in 1862. His opposition to the new president was no secret, but then most of Lincoln's cabinet officials were independently critical of the policies on slavery, war strategy and reconstruction.

Lincoln had a premonition he would die by an assassin's bullet, and even revealed this to a few close friends including his private secretary, John H. ... Ohio. His main concern on Good Friday, 186... was going to the theater for an evening of entertainment. He sent word to General Grant that the two of them and their wives should attend Ford's Theater to watch the play "Our American Cousin". But Julia Grant disliked Mary Lincoln. In addition, Stanton urged Grant not to go because it might attract too much attention and pose a security problem.

The Grants politely refused Lincoln's invitation, so the President asked Major Rathbone and his sweetheart to accompany them. That same afternoon Lincoln stopped in the War Office and asked Stanton

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## EDWIN STANTON

(Continued from page 4)

for a bodyguard, in that he might need some protection. The President specifically requested Tom Eckert, his most trusted and able man. "I am thinking he would be the kind of man to go with me tonight. May I take him?", Lincoln requested. Stanton refused, explaining that Eckert had important work which would keep him up most of the evening. Stanton then told Eckert that going to the play with the Lincoln's might prove too dangerous.

Booth fired one shot into Lincoln's head. The impact of the bullet, fired at point blank range, was so powerful it cracked the front of the President's skull. He then stabbed Major Rathbone and leaped to the stage below. Booth's spur caught the draping of the flag outside the box seat and he fell off-balance, breaking his leg. A young black servant waited outside in the alley with a horse and Booth quickly rode away.



The Stanton Statue  
at the Jefferson County Courthouse

Several minutes later Stanton received word of the shooting and assumed control of the government. He waited five hours before identifying and confirming Booth as the killer. He issued scores of orders, but many were never carried out because the telegraph wires had been cut. All roads leading from Washington were ordered closed and carefully guarded — all except one. As Booth and an accomplice escaped into Maryland, Stanton wept by the bedside of the dying President. Seemingly in control of himself, he swore revenge on all those involved in the conspiracy to murder top government officials. When Lincoln died the following morning, Stanton remarked, "Now he belongs to the angels." Those inside the room where Lincoln lay thought he had said,

"Now he belongs to the ages".

Booth's death is also a mystery. It was reported that Boston Corbett's rifle shot felled the assassin, but powder burns on Booth, and the bullet taken from him tend to show that Booth committed suicide rather than be taken alive and go through the disgrace of a public trial. Stanton gave strict orders that no relics or papers be removed from Booth and that the body be sewn tightly in a blanket. Booth's diary was impounded by Stanton, who at first denied he had it. Withheld as evidence at the trial of the conspirators, two years later it was finally handed over with eighteen pages missing. In one of the remaining pages, Booth remarked, ". . . the very little, I left behind to clear my name, the government will not allow to be printed."

The Secretary of War went almost unchallenged in his brief role as dictator and decision-maker. Some high officials, such as Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles, remarked, that "the rash, impulsive, and arbitrary measures of Stanton are exceedingly repugnant."

It was Stanton's intent to hang all eight of the accused conspirators, even before Lincoln was buried; he advocated a military trial with proceedings held in secret. This suggestion was just too much for other officials and, after strong objections, a compromise was reached. During their trial, the defendants were bound and gagged. The military court of nine officers and three judges, all chosen by Stanton, heard only the pleas from the defense attorneys. The public hearings, in fact, were unnecessary because the Secretary of War had already determined the fate of the accused. Evidence was quickly gathered and after a brief trial, four were hanged while the others received severe prison terms.

There remains many unanswered questions. For example, Louis Weichman, a war department employee who roomed at Mary Surratt's boarding-house where the conspirators met, twice informed Stanton of an alleged plot. These reports were filed and personally handed to Stanton, but they have never been found. On the night of the murder, Lincoln's theater box was guarded by John Parker, who had a notorious reputation for irresponsibility. Parker left his post to get drunk at the tavern next door, giving Booth free access to Lincoln. Parker was never prosecuted for his neglect of duty. In fact, he later received recognition for his association with the infamous event. It was also discovered later that Tom Eckert, the man Lincoln had requested for a bodyguard, went home early from the War Office because he had nothing to do. The rocking chair in which Lincoln was sitting as he watched the play, was impounded by Stanton and put in his office.

Though fingers point to Stanton, there were others in the Lincoln cabinet who may have had a motive to remove the President. Secretary of State William

(Continued on page 6)



## EDWIN STANTON

(Continued from page 5)

Seward, nearly stabbed to death by one of the conspirators, had been defeated by Lincoln at the 1860 Republican convention. Seward often said that Lincoln was unqualified to serve as Chief Executive. Salmon P. Chase, former governor of Ohio and Lincoln's Secretary of the Treasury during the Civil War, openly schemed to undermine Lincoln's presidency so he could make himself the next President. Even his beautiful daughter, Kate, was believed to have used her charm to convince powerful friends that only her father could run the country. It is quite possible that, assuming Stanton did withhold important evidence, he was protecting someone else and not himself.

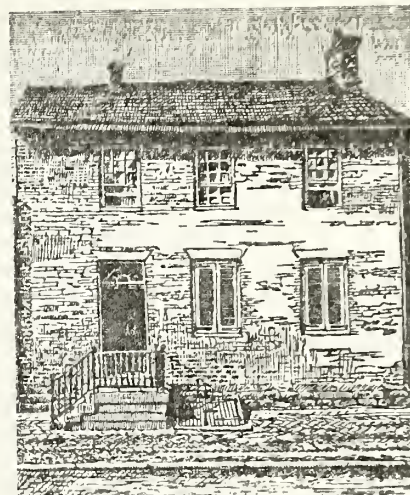
In the years following Lincoln's death some other interesting events took place. Mary Lincoln was later committed to an insane asylum. Major Rathbone later married the woman he took with him as guests of the Lincolns. While living in Europe, he killed her, then committed suicide. One employee of the War Department who claimed he had damaging evidence was probably poisoned to death. Boston Corbett, the man who claimed to have shot Booth and received some reward money, later became a patient in a Kansas mental institution.

All connected with the conspiracy are dead and little evidence since 1865 has been uncovered to add or detract from the mysterious, tragic events of this distressing affair. Edwin McMasters Stanton died on Christmas Eve, 1869, just four days after the Senate confirmed his appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court. He spent his remaining years following Lincoln's death inflicting vengeance and cruelty on

the southern states, destroying the President's plans of kindness and generosity to the rebel states.

Were all of these events simply coincidental or were they the design of some master-minded madman whose greed for power knew few limits? Did Stanton work secretly with Booth or was he fiercely loyal to Lincoln? Few people have cared to speculate on the alleged involvement of government officials in this conspiracy and it is doubtful if conclusive evidence exists or will ever be uncovered. Perhaps that is the way it should remain.

It was in the early 1900's that, after burning papers identifying the traitor, Robert Lincoln, the President's oldest son, explained to Theodore Roosevelt, "It would serve no purpose to make them (the papers) public. They deal with a man who played a part in my father's death — a man of my father's cabinet."



Boyhood home of Edwin Stanton  
at Steubenville

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# CHAB

# NEWS<sup>®</sup>

**Volume XXVII**  
**n° 3 & 4 - 1999**

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artist would say, in repose. The President, too, was not a man to endure disrespectful treatment from anybody in legal subordination to him, and was careful of his official dignity even in small matters, as the following incident will show:

When Mr. Stanley, of North Carolina, was appointed Military Governor of his State, the Secretary of War caused to be filled out one of the blank forms used for notifying military nominees of their appointment to office by the President, and when he had signed it and caused the seal of the Department of War to be attached to it, he concluded that it would be well to have the sign-manual of the President affixed to the instrument. He sent the commission to the White House with the request that the President would sign and return it immediately. Mr. Lincoln took the document and read it over carefully, and then began turning and twisting it about, as though in search of something. At last he handed it to the bearer and said, ironically:

"Did Mr. Stanton say where I was to put my signature?"

"No, Sir," replied the astonished clerk".

"Can you tell me," asked the President, "whereabouts on this paper I am to put my signature?" The clerk looked at the commission and saw the ample signature of Mr. Stanton immediately at the foot of the body of the instrument, with the counter-signature of the Adjutant-General to the left. He saw also a neat, snug-looking white space beneath the sign-manual of the Secretary of War which Mr. Lincoln might have occupied to advantage had he seen fit, but the clerk was politic and replied: "I don't see any place provided for your signature, Mr. President," and was proceeding to explain how the omission obviously came about when the President interrupted him and said, in a dignified tone: "Take the paper back to the Secretary of War, with my compliments, and say that the President will promptly sign any proper commission that may be sent to him for Governor Stanley, or anybody else."

The grain of truth in the stories of Mr. Stanton's rude reception of the President's missives is probably this - that the bearers of such as related to their own concerns frequently came to the War Department in a state of hysterical elation and hauteur, demanding immediate admission to the Secretary, and, when admitted, waiting with insolent impatience for a submissive word of acquiescence, and losing control of themselves in the course of a colloquy like the following:

"This matter shall receive proper attention, sir."

"When, Mr. Secretary?"

"I cannot say, now; but you shall be duly advised whenever necessary."

"But I understood from the President that it was to receive immediate attention."

"I have received no such understanding, sir."

"But are not the orders of the President to be obeyed in this department, sir, the same as in other departments of the Government?"

"I decline to discuss the relations of the President and this department with you, sir; you may retire."

"Very well, Mr. Secretary. I shall go right back to the President and tell him how his positive commands are disregarded here."

"You may go to the devil, sir! Leave the room!"

More hysterics on the part of the visitor and more fireworks by the Secretary, ending in that animated mummy, "Old Madison," taking the victim by the arm, leading him into the hallway, standing him up against the wall, and giving him a "real good talking to," ending with the entirely unnecessary assurance that "Mr. Stanton is a hard man to trifle with." If the panting stranger showed signs of docility, Madison would extract from him the nature of his business and give him "points" as to the safe and proper mode of following it up; but if he remained sullen or combative, Madison would make some mysterious allusions to the Old Capitol Prison and dismiss him to the White House, or elsewhere.



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# RECOLLECTIONS OF SECRETARY STANTON

by

**Charles F. Benjamin**

a clerk at the War Department

My acquaintance with Secretary Stanton began in the autumn of 1864. He was then in his fiftieth year, but looked older by reason of the abundant tinging of his originally brown hair and beard with iron-gray. He was a short, stout man in figure, awkward in gait, and with a certain unsteadiness in the movement of his arms which, I think, was due to incipient paralysis. His forehead was full without being especially high; his eyes were a soft, dark brown, but were habitually hidden behind glasses; his nostrils were broad and tremulous, and his mouth prominent and firmly set; his dress, while not negligent, was unstudied and ineffective.

Whether speaking or listening, Mr. Stanton looked his visitor full and steadily in the face. He spoke in low, deep, and cold tones, and, even in anger or excitement, scarcely increased or hastened his speech. The effectiveness and flexibility of his voice induces me to believe that in earlier life he had studied and practiced elocution as a preparation for the bar. His movements, too, were always slow and dignified, and in speaking he constantly changed his position and attitude. However these habits were acquired, they had become second nature with him, as he observed them even when momentarily unbalanced by passion.

The glittering of the eyes through the polished glasses; the breadth and quivering of the nostrils; the projecting, compressed lips; the icy, deliberate voice; the slow movement of the body, and the steady, seemingly defiant gaze, gave to the Secretary an air of reserve and haughtiness which made the first approach to him embarrassing. Nothing was more common or more amusing than to see some pompous or arrogant personage ushered into his presence, only to emerge from the room in a state of collapse, crushed by the manner rather than by the words of the lion at bay within.

Many stories have been told concerning Mr. Stanton's alleged sullen and contemptuous reception of communications from his superior officer, the President. All such tales are either grossly exaggerated, or wholly false. Mr. Stanton had a profound respect for authority, which rarely, if ever, failed of outward observance. Furthermore, his legal or political studies had led him to attach a great degree of importance and a considerable share of reverence to the office of President, apart from its incumbent; and this ideal and exalted figure seemed ever present to his imagination, and made frequent appearances in his writings and speeches, though it was hard to identify it with the gaunt, ramshackle presence of Mr. Lincoln, as that presence appeared when its owner was, as an



artist would say, in repose. The President, too, was not a man to endure disrespectful treatment from anybody in legal subordination to him, and was careful of his official dignity even in small matters, as the following incident will show:

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"Can you tell me," asked the President, "whereabouts on this paper I am to put my signature?" The clerk looked at the commission and saw the ample signature of Mr. Stanton immediately at the foot of the body of the instrument, with the counter-signature of the Adjutant-General to the left. He saw also a neat, snug-looking white space beneath the sign-manual of the Secretary of War which Mr. Lincoln might have occupied to advantage had he seen fit, but the clerk was politic and replied: "I don't see any place provided for your signature, Mr. President," and was proceeding to explain how the omission obviously came about when the President interrupted him and said, in a dignified tone: "Take the paper back to the Secretary of War, with my compliments, and say that the President will promptly sign any proper commission that may be sent to him for Governor Stanley, or anybody else."

The grain of truth in the stories of Mr. Stanton's rude reception of the President's missives is probably this - that the bearers of such as related to their own concerns frequently came to the War Department in a state of hysterical elation and hauteur, demanding immediate admission to the Secretary, and, when admitted, waiting with insolent impatience for a submissive word of acquiescence, and losing control of themselves in the course of a colloquy like the following:

"This matter shall receive proper attention, sir."

"When, Mr. Secretary?"

"I cannot say, now; but you shall be duly advised whenever necessary."

"But I understood from the President that it was to receive immediate attention."

"I have received no such understanding, sir."

"But are not the orders of the President to be obeyed in this department, sir, the same as in other departments of the Government?"

"I decline to discuss the relations of the President and this department with you, sir; you may retire."

"Very well, Mr. Secretary. I shall go right back to the President and tell him how his positive commands are disregarded here."

"You may go to the devil, sir! Leave the room!"

More hysterics on the part of the visitor and more fireworks by the Secretary, ending in that animated mummy, "Old Madison," taking the victim by the arm, leading him into the hallway, standing him up against the wall, and giving him a "real good talking to," ending with the entirely unnecessary assurance that "Mr. Stanton is a hard man to trifle with." If the panting stranger showed signs of docility, Madison would extract from him the nature of his business and give him "points" as to the safe and proper mode of following it up; but if he remained sullen or combative, Madison would make some mysterious allusions to the Old Capitol Prison and dismiss him to the White House, or elsewhere.

All the time that I knew him, Mr. Stanton was a passionate man, A word or a gesture would set him aflame in an instant. He would dash the glasses before his eyes far up on his forehead, as though they pained or obstructed his vision; the muscles of his face would become agitated, and his voice would tremble and grow intense, without elevation. But the storm would pass away as quickly as it came, and be succeeded by a calmness of demeanor almost as painful by reason of the sudden contrast. If the victim was a subordinate, further reparation followed. At the next succeeding interview, the white, soft band of the Secretary would be laid in a kindly and seemingly unconscious way upon his shoulder, or the flattering discovery would be made that he was looking ill or worn from overwork and must take a little recreation, or a conventional or seasonable cough would be magnified into an alarming symptom, and directions given for the unconscious invalid to go to the Surgeon-General and be prescribed for by the Secretary's order. If the offended subordinate was of considerable rank, an important piece of news would sometimes be told to him in confidence, or his opinion would be asked on some subject wherein he regarded himself as an expert. General Halleck or General Canby would be placated by the submission to his judgment of some question of public law, or Madison, the aged and garrulous negro who was usually to be found anywhere but at his post at the Secretary's door, might delay a cabinet meeting or a dinner party while retailing to the Secretary the latest piece of gossip which his wife had picked up in her vocation as a nurse, or expounding his confused ideas of what the Government should further do for the "cullud" people. Every undeserved visitation of wrath was sure to be followed by an act of expiation, and the keen perception of the Secretary (who would take notice of so small a matter as the placing of a clean blotting-sheet on his desk), and his unfailing memory (I have often heard him recall apparently trivial things weeks after their occurrence), enabled him with certainty to choose both the time and manner of healing any wound he might have inflicted.

Adjutant-General Townsend, by reason of his position and duties, had to bear in greater measure than any other official the infirmities of Mr. Stanton's uncertain temper. He told me, after the latter's death, how touched he was by finding himself named, in kindly phrase, as one of the executors of his will.

The Secretary's irritability was doubtless due in some part to the state of his health, which had become undermined during his service at the head of the War Department. He suffered greatly, and almost unceasingly, from the asthma, which at last ended his life, and his suffering was aggravated by a serious disorder of the liver. The Surgeon-General attended him daily, and during the fall and winter of 1864 his condition was such as to cause great anxiety. Twice in that period he fell at his post from violent fits of strangulation, I suppose them to have been. But he would not hear of taking a furlough for any period, however short. At the solicitation of the Surgeon-General he would make attempts at exercise by walking, to which he had grown averse; he followed his medical director in matters of diet; he smoked cigars to relieve his asthma and ceased to smoke them when the affection of the liver required; but he would not abandon his inspection of or action upon the multitude of official papers that came before him, nor deny himself to the public or to the officers of his department, nor keep to regular hours of business. He would meet the Surgeon-General's remonstrances and suggestions with the remark, spoken good-naturedly, "Barnes, keep me alive till this rebellion is over, and then I will take a rest!" adding, more seriously, "a long one, perhaps." To Senator Wilson, who expressed to him the fear that they were both wearing out (Wilson, as chairman of the Military Committee, had an unceasing and laborious task), he said, "We are enlisted for the war, and must stand to our guns till the last shot is fired." After the cessation of hostilities his health improved for a time, but he was too far gone for any permanent amendment, and was never himself deceived as to his condition or prospects.



The genuine character of the Secretary's outbursts of anger had much to do with reconciling his associates to them. His rage took note neither of time, place, nor personage, so that all fared alike in chastisement as in atonement. Of course he did not esteem everybody about him in equal measure, but those whom he disliked were very few, and his aversion to them was sincere, even where possibly unjust.

The War Department in those days was a dingy, old-fashioned brick building, with dimensions and interior finish reflecting the severe and economical tastes of Federal officials half a century or more ago. A tawdrily frescoed room and a stick or two of velvet plush furniture kept alive the memory of Mr. Secretary Floyd, whose habits, according to the stories of the older attachés, were sybaritic. Early in the war, a third story had been hastily clapped on to the original structure, and the flues of this addition were so defectively constructed that incessant care was necessary to prevent the department from being burned out. Besides the original and expanded building, the War Department occupied outside buildings enough to constitute a good-sized town in number and extent. The parent building was a hive of industry day and night, those having personal relations with the Secretary always returning after dinner, and double reliefs being worked in some of the routine offices. All day long, from nine to four, a steady stream of people poured into, out of, and through the building, and the door-keeper's daily watch-book showed a long list of names of persons privileged to enter without regard to hours.

The Secretary's room was in a corner of the second story, with an outlook toward the Executive Mansion. It was very plainly fitted up and furnished, the most conspicuous article in it being a large, high table (usually heaped with papers) which Surgeon-General Barnes had recommended as a means of affording the invalid needed exercise while attending to business.

Adjoining and communicating with the Secretary's apartment was one much used by President Lincoln, and furnished with a desk and writing materials for his accommodation. After his death some freshly written sheets were found in his drawer, which read like parts of an intended message to Congress, and dealt with the status in which slavery and the insurgent governments had been left by the collapse of the rebellion. It would seem from these that it had been his purpose, as contended on one side, and denied on the other, during the quarrel between President Johnson and his party, to call Congress together in special session to deal with the question of reconstruction.

In the days of which I write, Mr. Lincoln was a particularly woe-begone figure. It was one of those periods of the war when the whole situation, military, financial, and political, was one of almost unrelieved blackness. He spent hours at a time shut up with Mr. Stanton, all business and speech mainly being put aside, so far as outsiders could judge, while these lonely communions lasted. Was it not the gloomy autumn days of 1864 that the tearful Secretary had in mind when he spoke those pathetic words as he took the hand of the just-expired President: "Ah, dear friend! there is none now to do me justice; none to tell the world of the anxious hours we have spent together!" Even before the autumn had well set in, Mr. Lincoln had begun to enwrap himself in the familiar plaid shawl, and, with his hat pulled well down in front, he would scurry along the halls of the War Department and into the retiring room of the Secretary, noticing and speaking to nobody. At times he would sit in the retiring-room with the door open between that and the apartment in which the Secretary, walking about as was his wont, was transacting business with the departmental officers and clerks, or visitors, prolonging his course, every few minutes, into the adjacent room, to hold converse with his chief. It was an interesting and a pleasant sight, that of Mr. Lincoln seated with one long leg crossed upon the other, his head a little peaked and his face lit up by the animation of talking or listening, while Mr. Stanton would stand sidewise to him, with one hand resting lightly on the high back of the chair in the brief intervals of that everlasting

occupation of wiping his spectacles. But if, while in such proximity, Mr. Lincoln should happen to rise to big feet, farewell to the picturesqueness of the scene, for the striking differences in height and girth at once suggested the two gendarmes in the French comic opera.

Beyond the President's room was the library, converted into a telegraph office, wherein the President used occasionally to unbend himself when the Secretary was beyond earshot and the news from the front was encouraging. Mr. Stanton was a great user of the telegraph, and a fair history of the war might almost be written from the manuscript volumes of telegrams received and sent by him, preserved in the Department. A general officer holding an important command in the Gulf region told me, after the war, that Mr. Stanton's telegrams were so frequent, peremptory, and regardless of hours that he never lay down in his tent or quarters at night without a mental picture of the Secretary of War watching his every movement.

Business at the Department opened at nine in the morning, and the uncertainty as to how soon the Secretary might arrive induced great promptness in attendance. As his carriage turned from Pennsylvania Avenue into Seventeenth street, the door-keeper on watch would put his head inside and cry, in a low, warning tone, "The Secretary!" The word was passed along and around till the whole building was traversed by it, and for a minute or two there was a shuffling of feet and a noise of opening and shutting of doors, as the stragglers and loungers everywhere fled to their stations.

As the carriage drove up to the curb, persons would detach themselves from the straggling group on the sidewalk and gather around the step to intercept the Secretary on his way to the building. Rapidly glancing over the party, he would select those whom he judged to be objects of compassion or urgency and hear and decide for them on the spot. The rest he dismissed, singly or in mass, with a curt injunction to go to his reception-room, upstairs. The favored few were usually soldiers from the hospitals, or wives or mothers of soldiers in attendance upon wounded relatives. "My good woman" was his usual form of address to these latter, but he invariably called an elderly woman, however humble her apparent station, "Madam." In fact, he had the traditional Chinese reverence for the aged of either sex.

As soon as the Secretary had reached his room, he began tugging at the tasseled cord that hung from the ceiling and set in motion a bell hanging in the hallway, so large and clamorous that it was a mystery to me how or why it was put there. Its deviser, however, "built better than he knew," for the bell became a moral influence. Its tones reached all over the building, and as the active Secretary gave it little rest in the summoning of messengers to be sent hither and thither, it was forever filling the ears and minds of the working staff with lessons of duty and necessity.

Although Mr. Stanton was by nature an accessible man, it was simply impossible for him to give private audience to a tithe of the persons who daily inquired for him. Even Senators and Representatives in Congress often had difficulty in seeing him at the times and in the manner they desired, and frequently accepted "pot-luck" with the crowd in the public reception-room. Colonel Hardie, a handsome Scotch-looking officer, took charge of this room early in the morning and, in the name and by authority of the Secretary, dispatched the business of such as neither needed nor insisted upon the personal action of the Secretary. He also sent in the names of such callers as he thought the Secretary would privately receive and, from time to time, went in himself to take the Secretary's commands upon some case of special difficulty or importance. As nearly as possible to eleven o'clock, the Secretary, who had an almost religious regard for this daily observance, came into the room and took station at the little, high desk, near the bottom, Colonel Hardie or Major Pelouze being in attendance to assist him. He waved everybody back who approached him, until he had



completed a deliberate scrutiny of the company and had received from the officer in attendance a statement, in a low voice, of the exceptionally urgent or meritorious cases. Then, one after another, he indicated those whom he wished to draw near, beginning with the soldiers, and, after them, calling up the plainly dressed women who looked as if they might be soldiers' kinfolk. If he happened to notice that a soldier had crutches or was weak from illness, he would leave the desk and go to him where he was seated. Officers bearing visible tokens of wounds or disability were also preferred suitors, but with other gentlemen of the shoulder-strap he was usually curt. Civilians he treated accordingly as his humor was affected by their statements or manner, but there was always a general observance of the underlying principle that this public reception was for those who had no other means of access to him. It was here that Mr. Stanton might usually be seen at his best. If a case of unusual gallantry, merit, or suffering were stated, he would comment upon it aloud to the company, ending with a moral, inviting to patriotism, virtue, or fortitude. On the other hand, if he found a woman-suppliant embarrassed by the publicity of statement and action, he would draw her beyond the desk to the window-recess and hear her there, or send her to his room to be heard more leisurely or privately. Some of us used to think, while watching the Secretary at these receptions, that a great power had been lost to the pulpit when he became a lawyer; for he was an admirable preacher and far from averse to sermonizing.

Three mornings a week, in continuance of a custom begun before the war, Mr. Stanton, accompanied by a man-servant, visited the City market in the character of caterer for his household. Politics among the stall-holders was of a divided kind, and the Secretary, who knew how each of his purveyors stood, fashioned his gossip with them accordingly. With the Confederate sympathizers he usually assumed a bantering tone, wherein, however, he found opportunity now and then, of enjoining a strict neutrality upon all but their tongues. His playful threats of incarceration in the Old Capitol the garrulous ones were fond of repeating to neighbors and customers, with defiant comments of their own. With the Union marketmen he was more serious, often gratifying them with scraps of hopeful news or prognostications. He was sometimes followed around the market-house, at a respectful distance, by a small crowd of reporters and curbstone speculators in gold, in quest of "points," but his humble confidants were generally as mute as the Sphinx. After the exchange of prisoners was stopped, attempts were made to use some of the market-people to solicit special exchanges for Confederate captives, but Mr. Stanton, making allowance for the pressure exerted, kindly put the solicitations aside and forbade their recurrence. Where a personal or family interest existed, he was ready to hear and sometimes to relieve. The stalls of the disloyal marketmen were veritable depots for underground news from the Confederacy, and it is not unlikely that the astute Secretary occasionally got some "points" of value to himself from the more talkative of these tradesmen.

In 1864 Mr. Stanton ordered that thereafter captured Confederate flags should be accompanied to Washington by the individual or parties engaged in each capture. As soon as informed of the arrival of a collection of such trophies, he organized a little ceremony in the public reception-room. An hour would be appointed for receiving the standards, and he would get together a small company of notables. Taking his stand at the tall desk, each flag would be brought before him in succession, and he would demand the story of its capture, which the captor would give, flag and staff in hand. The Secretary would keep up a running commentary of mingled surprise and gratification; would occasionally stop the narrative and call for a repetition of some part which struck his fancy, and, at the close, would shake the narrator warmly by the hand, introduce him to each of the distinguished persons in the room, and repeatedly tell him that he was a gallant fellow. Sometimes he would shake hands over and over again with the same man, commending the courage of his action and the modesty of his account of it. Again and again he would refer to their coming from different

States, but belonging to one country, and this theme he played upon so variously during each ceremony that he must have had a suspicion of the existence of sectionalism in the armies. When all the flags had been presented and all the stories told, he would turn to the Adjutant-General (who was in attendance and in uniform), and in an impressive voice direct him to make out for each man a furlough for thirty days, with transportation at the public expense to his home and back to his station, and an order on the Paymaster-General for one month's pay in advance; also to cause medals of honor to be prepared and sent to each captor, with due publication of the fact in general orders. Then with more handshakings, compliments, and patriotic allusions, the visitors would withdraw in the company of the Adjutant-General, all blushes, confusion, and delightful anticipation.

At the time I entered the department a gloomy tone pervaded it, which would have been much more noticed and felt by others than the chiefs if incessant and ever-growing routine business had not afforded mental distraction. Not for a day nor an hour did the pressure for army appointments and contracts relax, so that no matter how things went in the field, in the department at Washington they went the same from one day to another. General Halleck at last warned the Secretary of War that the excessive number of paymasters, quartermasters, commissaries, and assistant adjutant-generals appointed to the volunteer forces was an administrative calamity, apart from the useless expense, which was not his concern. The chiefs of bureaus protested that outstanding contracts for the favorite articles of supply ran far ahead of the public necessity. Assistant Secretary Harrington, the practical man of the Treasury Department, came over with schedules and statements which showed that the expenses of the Government were at the rate of one and a half million dollars per day, that the new loans were stagnant, and that the banks were getting alarmed at the extent to which their resources were locked up in the certificates of indebtedness that the Treasury had been obliged to use in settling with public creditors. So far as the War Department was concerned, the trouble lay not in the expense of the troops actually in the field or in garrison, but in the multitude of establishments in the rear, reaching from Maine to California, and sheltering a mixed staff of military and civil employees that rivaled in numbers the men who marched and fought.

In each congressional district a multitude of local interests was bound up with these establishments, and not one could be abolished or reduced without raising a deafening clamor at Washington. It was the supervision and control of these indispensable yet costly auxiliaries that robbed the Secretary of needed repose in the intervals of the great duties of his office; for an appeal was sure to be taken to him from every important act of the local administration. His office was choked with inspection reports, filled with evidences of inefficiency and extravagance, and with projects of reform, and the custodian of them used to have the more important set up in large type in a secluded printing-office, and a single impression struck off, so that the Secretary could read them in his carriage, or in his library or bedroom at home. But all retrenchment had to await the November presidential election, for the Administration took a serious view of General McClellan's prospects, and did not feel strong enough to offend the pettiest political magnate. Mr. Chase had a large following which was not friendly to President Lincoln, and the military situation for the moment gave color to the Democratic declaration that nearly four years of war had failed to restore the Union. Early in October, from some cause that I never fathomed, a subterranean panic seized upon the leaders and lasted a good fortnight at least. The Assistant Secretary of War, who had charge of the internal economy of the department, began dismissing clerks accused of offensive "McClellanism," but this did not meet the Secretary's approval. Doubtless Mr. Stanton knew fairly well the extent to which quiet partisanship for McClellan pervaded his entire department, but politics under him was as free as religion, so long as fidelity and industry accompanied it. The chief of his military staff, Colonel Hardie, came to him fresh



from cordial and confidential service on the staff of the deposed General McClellan, and General Fry, the provost marshal-general, whose duties and powers were more important and delicate than those of any other officer in the department, had been chief of staff to General Buell up to the time when the latter's active career had been terminated by the Secretary.

Early in 1869, a former clerk in his office called upon the ex-Secretary to solicit his influence in the matter of an appointment he was seeking from President Grant. His request was so warmly received that with an awkward honesty of purpose he blurted out, "You know, Mr. Secretary" (his late subordinates usually so addressed him after his retirement), "that I used to belong to the Army of the Potomac, and perhaps I ought to say that I have always been a warm adherent of General McClellan." Mr. Stanton was plainly enough annoyed at the unexpected diversion of the conversation, but he quietly answered, "that is your business, sir, not mine. You served me faithfully, and whenever or where-ever I can serve you, I will do so gladly." Then, seeing the distress and repentance of his visitor, he resumed his interrupted cordiality, and, with a touch of old-time habits, sent him away at ease by having lifted a bit of the curtain that hid the business of state. One of his staff-officers, now dead, told me how the Secretary had "stampeded" him one day during that autumn of 1864, by quietly remarking to him, after an unusual display of petulancy, "Never mind, major! when your friend McClellan gets into the White House, you'll be rid of me."

Speaking of his political tolerance, it is proper to remember that Mr. Stanton entered President Lincoln's cabinet as a life-long Democrat, and it was his humor always to regard himself as still a member of the Democratic party. As late as the winter of 1866-67, in the course of a short conversation with the then Senator Hendricks, with whom he maintained cordial relations throughout the war, he rather surprised that gentleman by discussing with him the political situation as though he had a partisan's interest in the forthcoming Democratic nomination to the presidency. He was accustomed to appeal privately to leading Democrats in Congress to forward passively, when they could not actively, the indispensable war measures of the Government; he refrained from gratifying himself or his party friends by patronage; he cherished to the end of his life old political associations and friendships - more than one Democratic worker in Pennsylvania in 1863 and 1864 carried in his pocket an autograph letter from the Secretary of War, guaranteeing any freedom of speech and of the press that did not promote disloyalty or incite resistance to the operations of government; and he never came nearer to confessing himself a convert to the party he was serving than by an occasional lamentation that the war had broken up the party lines and issues as he used to know them.

Mr. Stanton was always and before everything a lawyer. He idealized and deified the Law and magnified, I suspect, both the capabilities and achievements of his class. Eminence as a lawyer was any man's best recommendation to him. He doubtless appreciated in Generals Halleck and Canby the technical military knowledge which he never had nor cared to have, but it was their legal attainments that placed them so high and kept them so steadily in his esteem. It pleased him to have people mention with interest the little tin sign bearing his name and profession which all during his public career remained upon the building opposite the Treasury wherein his law-office had been. While in practice he shrunk from no exercise of power that the public welfare or the public necessity seemed to demand, he was delighted to have that clever and industrious Boston lawyer, Mr. Whiting, find a legal warrant for every proper exercise of authority in the theretofore unexplored and unsuspected war powers of the President under the Constitution. He gave Dr. Lieber a liberal honorarium for preparing those rules for the government of armies in the field which supplied a sound legal basis for what officers and soldiers were doing upon necessity. "Whiting's Powers" and "Lieber's Rules" were jest-books about the department,

but their continued vitality and authority prove how sound and timely were the legal instincts of Mr. Stanton in calling them into existence.

One day a prominent Senator made his way into the Secretary's presence, full of fury against the Quartermaster-General.

"Stanton," he roared out, "I wonder how a lawyer, as you are, can keep that man Meigs where he is. Why! he pays no regard to either law or justice."

Mr. Stanton looked at his excited visitor and replied, dryly:

"Now, don't you say a word against Meigs. He is the most useful man I have about me. True, he isn't a lawyer, and therefore he does many things that I wouldn't dare to do."

"Then why in the name of heaven do you let him do them?" demanded the Senator.

"Somebody has to do them," quietly answered the Secretary.

Mr. Stanton never reconciled himself to military methods, nor learned to esteem the military profession as a permanent instrument of civilization. Accustomed as a lawyer to do everything in person and in his own way, the delay and precision inseparable from public administration always chafed him. The official conservator of routine in the War Department is the Adjutant-General; and General Townsend, who filled that office during the war, was an even-tempered man, with an ideal respect for authority that never permitted him to palter with orders, and an ideal respect for precedent that never permitted him to depart from tradition in their execution; and of the traditions of the army he was the store-house from which all engaged in military administration at times supplied themselves. The Secretary was greatly attached to his Adjutant-General, scolding him oftener than any other of his subordinates, sharing more confidences with him, and, while forever breaking down his barriers of tradition and routine, constantly taking his opinion in private upon questions or acts under discussion or in contemplation. Mr. Stanton was surrounded and kept himself surrounded by military officers, and despite the incessant war of conflicting habits and methods, there was much mutual esteem. He once humorously described his situation as that of the man betwixt the devil and the deep sea - if he escaped the bottomless pit of chaos, he fell into the fathomless gulf of circumlocution. His open preference for the private soldier to the wearer of shoulder-straps (a preference opposed to both reason and experience and, in his case, free from the usual taint of demagogism) was due to his conception of military force as a necessary evil; still an evil, however necessary. If I might venture to put into phrase his art of war as I have heard him variously expound it, it would read something like this: "Get together all the men you can and move against the enemy; if he retreats, follow him and fight him till he breaks up or surrenders; if he resists, fight him till he retreats." He once closed a technical and animated discussion, in his presence, of the respective merits of muzzle and breech loading rifles by the remark: "Gentlemen, it's the man behind the gun that makes all the difference worth talking about."

Mr. Stanton repeatedly bestowed military appointments upon persons in civil life, charged with civic duties, because the emoluments of such appointments were the readiest means at hand of recognizing faithful or valuable service. Baker, the chief of the military detective service, was, in truth, a faithful and valuable public servant, and as he held the rank of colonel of volunteers, the Secretary saw no reason why he should not have a brevet promotion, on retiring from the service, just as paymasters, commissaries, and surgeons were having brevets. To his legally constituted mind a brevet brigadier (being an official without either authority, duty, or pay as such) was as great an anomaly as a brevet judge would have been; and hence, after keeping the law, authorizing brevets in abeyance till military pressure became irresistible, he opened the gates, at the close of the war, and said in effect: "Here is something that means nothing and costs nothing; take all you want." True, he did at first prescribe that brevets should only be conferred on the recommendation of boards of officers, or, subsequently, of the chain of commanding officers of each aspirant,



and he originally limited brevet promotion to one grade for each person breveted; but these methods were too slow and too sparing for the multitude of aspirants, and as he did not care enough about the matter in a public or personal sense to buffet with Congressmen, who naturally wanted everything they could get for their soldier constituents, he practically abandoned the whole business to a clerk in his office, who made up schedules as best he could from which the Adjutant-General prepared the official papers. So loosely was the brevetting done that a party of departmental clerks, for a lark, undertook to get a companion and butt of theirs breveted from his late rank of first-lieutenant to the grade of brigadier-general, and had actually obtained for him the several brevet commissions of captain, major, and lieutenant colonel when he became fearful of detection and exposure, and gave a royal "spread" to his benefactors as the price of their services and silence. I am bound to say that his extraordinary elevation made a man of him, for some wealthy relatives took him up, on bearing of the honors showered upon him, established him in business, and helped him to a desirable marriage, and "the colonel" has been all that a colonel ought to be ever since.

Mr. Stanton's mental characteristics accorded exactly with his past career. He was a self-made man, and had been a highly successful lawyer and advocate. Hence his energy, self-reliance, gravity, and taciturnity. Hence, too, his minute suspiciousness, for he had grappled with extraordinary fabrications of documents and with perjury of the most cunning order in his investigation of the California land-titles. Hence, too, I imagine, his dramatic tendencies, which were perpetually cropping out. Hence, too, his normal aggressiveness; for as Secretary of War he seemed to regard himself as holding a brief for the Government and to be bent on bringing his client out successful, leaving everybody else to look out for himself and to get in the way at his peril. This concentration and intensity of his mind on the single object of crushing the rebellion must explain much of his seeming harshness to and neglect of individuals. He liked many persons and disliked very few. Messrs. Davis, Toombs, Yancey, Thompson, Floyd, and Breckinridge were all, or nearly all, of the leaders of the rebellion that he seemed to have any personal resentment against. He spoke sympathetically of the situation of Governor Vance, who had been captured and brought before him as a prisoner, though he had borne himself stiffly while the governor was present. At the solicitation of Mr. Garrett, he interested himself in getting a special pardon for General Kirby Smith, because of his poverty after conducting large cotton operations for the Confederate Government, and because of Canby's praise of his scrupulous fidelity in executing the surrender of the Trans-Mississippi Department. He permitted an impoverished gentleman who had held civil office at Richmond to bring a valuable law library to the North, and assisted him to an advantageous sale of it. He protected a needy lady who was threatened with dismissal from public employment because her husband was (against her will) serving in the Confederate army. The late judge Roane, of Alabama, told me that when his State seceded he went to Mr. Stanton, who, after some violent language about Yancey and some others, and the ruin they were bringing on innocent men, told him he saw nothing else for him to do but to resign his office at Washington, go home and take care of his family and do as little harm to the Government or his people as he could. When he saw Roane after the war and heard that he had accepted a place in one of the departments at Richmond as a partial means of support, he only remarked, "A man must live." With the exceptions I have named, I do not believe that he had any especial or individual feeling against those engaged in the rebellion, and that he never had any thought or purpose beyond restoring the Union and making it secure. When, in the early days of his heat against the Southern leaders, President Johnson refused to permit General Joseph E. Johnston to visit his sister in Canada without forfeiting his right to remain in the United States, Mr. Stanton, whose own power of refusal was ample, before handing the paper back to General Grant, who, in company with General Sherman, had recommended the desired extension of

General Johnston's parole, indorsed on the paper a minute that the refusal was at the personal order of the President.

The unhappy relations that grew up between Secretary Stanton and General McClellan are, I think, most reasonably to be explained by the overwhelming devotion of the former to the advocate's idea of duty to a client. He entered office on the best of terms with the young General-in-Chief, but they soon drifted apart. The choice of the Peninsular route for the advance on Richmond entirely shattered the Secretary's confidence in his late military ideal, and the retreat to the James River, and the seemingly aimless and endless sojourn there under the protection of the navy, appeared to confirm all of Mr. Stanton's moody anticipations and gave him an ascendancy in the Government that was, however, speedily overturned by the disaster to his own general, Pope. He fought bitterly then, as his cabinet memoranda show, against the restoration of McClellan, but people, generally, had neither his convictions nor his stern courage, and the President overruled him for the moment. He was again overruled in the appointment of General Hooker; but that was the last time, and not even the transcendent influence of General Grant at a later day could suffice to recall General McClellan to the field a second time.

If Mr. Stanton had any marked intellectual tastes dissociated from the law I never discovered or heard of them. He was fond of novels, especially those of Dickens, but he read them, as he said, to relax and clear his mind. He liked also the conversation of accomplished men, and, before the war, had built himself a house, larger than his means warranted, in order that he might assemble them around his table and give them suitable entertainment. Even during the war, no matter how onerous or anxious his duties at the moment might be, he was always ready to meet at his own or some other table men of real eminence in any field who might be visiting Washington. Among his colleagues of the cabinet he maintained intimate relations with Mr. Seward, whose volatile nature had a strong attraction for his own Puritanical soul.

Mr. Stanton was a profoundly pious man and carried his belief in predestination and special providence so far that he might have been a fatalist, except for the teachings of his own active life and the robustness and activity of a mind that was incapable of passiveness. In his eyes the American Union was a providential scheme for working out the happiness of mankind, and therefore, while he never despaired of the republic, the attempt to break it up appeared to him to be sacrilegious, and herein probably lay the secret of his vindictiveness against the men whom he felt warranted in holding guilty of stirring up a rebellion.

With all his religious fervor, Mr. Stanton was a tolerant man in religion, as I have shown him to have been in politics. As the Federal armies penetrated and spread themselves over the South, there was much unavoidable distress and disturbance of the Roman Catholic conventual establishments connected with education and charity, and the sisterhoods, and often priests in charge of congregations, would appeal to the Archbishop of Baltimore for aid in getting their lot in various ways ameliorated by the authorities at Washington. The archbishop would transmit the more urgent and meritorious of these appeals to Colonel Hardie, chief of the military staff at the War Department and a devout Catholic, who would submit them to the Secretary, being unwilling to assume any responsibility himself in matters that touched him so closely. Colonel Hardie has told me how surprised he used to be at the patience and liberality of Mr. Stanton in dealing with these appeals, and how, upon one occasion, when he expressed a fear that he was exposing himself to censure in making himself the repeated vehicle of such applications, the Secretary put him at his ease by replying: "I shall censure you when you fail in your duty of bringing all necessary and proper matters to my attention, - these included."



This is perhaps a good place to refer to a belief that has gained some foothold, that Mr. Stanton was especially concerned in bringing about the conviction or the execution of Mrs. Surratt, and that he afterward was stricken by remorse for his part in her painful death. It is true that, after her conviction, he did refuse to interfere in any way with the execution of her sentence, even when importuned by her pale-faced, weeping daughter again and again, till he was obliged either to yield or to deny admittance to the suppliant; and it is true that, relying upon his own legal training and experience, he personally subjected the witness Weichman, upon whose testimony Mrs. Surratt was chiefly convicted, to a searching examination to test the accuracy and trustworthiness of his statements. Beyond these he had, from beginning to end, no especial relations toward the case of Mrs. Surratt. Doubtless he shared the national repugnance of his countrymen to the hanging of women, and I infer this from his expressed disgust at the applications made to him for passes to witness her execution. After his retirement he was not chary of admitting his mistakes made in office, but he certainly died in ignorance of remorse, or any ground for remorse, on the part of himself or anybody else, in connection with the fate of Mrs. Surratt. It is only fair to say that he did take an active part in the subsequent trial of her son, and made no concealment of his chagrin at the failure of the expected conviction.

I have spoken of Mr. Stanton's self-reliance. The defeat of Rosectans at Chickamauga believed at Washington to imperil East Tennessee, and the Secretary was urgent to send a strong reinforcement there from the Army of the Potomac. General Halleck contended that it was impossible to get an effective reinforcement there in time, and the President, after hearing both sides, accepted the judgment of Halleck. Mr. Stanton then put off the decision till evening, when he and Halleck were to be ready with details to support their conclusions. The Secretary then sent for Colonel McCallum, who was neither a lawyer nor a strategist, but a master of railway science. He showed McCallum how many officers, men, horses, and pieces of artillery, and how much baggage it was proposed to move from the Rapidan to the Tennessee, and asked him to name the shortest time he would undertake to do it in if his life depended on it. McCallum made some rapid calculations, jotted down some projects connected with the move, and named a time within that which Halleck had admitted would be soon enough if it were only possible; this time being conditioned on his being able to control everything that he could reach. The Secretary was delighted, told him he would make him a brigadier-general the day that the last train was safely unloaded, put him on his mettle by telling him of Halleck's assertion that the thing was beyond human power, told him to go and work out final calculations and projects, and to begin preliminary measures, using his name and authority everywhere; and finally instructed him what to do and say when he should send for him by and by to come over to the department. When the conference was resumed and McCallum was introduced, his apparently spontaneous demonstration of how easily and surely the impossible thing could be done convinced the two skeptics, and the movement was ordered and made, and figures now in military science as a grand piece of strategy.

The Secretary was not without a sense of humor, as the following anecdote will show. It was reported to him that an officer from the front was in Washington under an assumed name and rank, in a false uniform and with a forged pass, and had been heard to utter obscure threats against some of the heads of the Government. He had the accused person looked up, arrested, and brought before him, and it happened that he was in the public reception-room when the prisoner arrived. A few stern and searching questions and a demand for the prisoner's papers brought out the facts. The "conspirator" was a lieutenant of volunteers who had overstaid a leave of absence and was masquerading in the uniform and credentials of a field-officer while making ducks and drakes of a few hundred dollars which had come into his possession, and the threats were the frothy parts of a beery discus-



sion with some brother officers over the perennial subject of the merits and demerits of McClellan, Burnside, and Hooker, the shelved commanders of the army to which the inebriates all belonged. The Secretary called in a tall, grisly sergeant of dragoons, whom he was accustomed to use for hard or perilous courier service, and in a sepulchral voice bade him go fetch his saber. At these words the malefactor turned pale and the bystanders were filled with a variety of emotions, ranging from curiosity to terror. The saber was brought and the edge of it solemnly scrutinized and felt by the Secretary. Still holding the saber, he directed the sergeant to tear from the prisoner's coat the gilt buttons and false shoulder straps. Then handing him the naked blade, he said, "Sergeant, take this fellow to the Old Capitol in one of the wagons, and tell Colonel Wood to keep him there till I direct his release. If he attempts to escape, cut him down, by my orders." These dreadful words did not, in truth, mean perpetual or even indefinite imprisonment. The Secretary knew that the case would come before the jail deliverer, judge Advocate Turner, the very next morning, and that, in a day or two, an order of dismissal from the service would result, and the offender be set at large.

The Secretary, however, was not always so grim in his pleasantries. An orderly, lounging at the watchman's desk and scribbling on the blotting-pad, idly scrawled a rude imitation of the Secretary's autograph, and, impelled by some demon of mischief, added a profane and insulting epithet to it. The microscopical eye of the Secretary soon detected the libelous inscription, and the terrified doorkeeper gave up the name of the person whom he rightly suspected of the authorship. "Bad news travels fast," and before the Secretary could reach the station of the culprit, en route to his own room, Smith was on the upper floor of the building, a panting fugitive. For a full week he lived a life of suspense and furtiveness, without a word or a sign from the offended magnate, who was full of business, and might be presumed to have forgotten the matter. But as soon as Mr. Stanton laid his eye upon Smith he invited him into his private room and demanded the whole truth and nothing else. He soon became satisfied that the inscription was nothing but a piece of idle mischief, and a few more questions informed him of the trembler's good record in the field and the department, and of his possession of a wife and children. The Secretary then began to rail at him for so publicly caricaturing his handsome signature, and, for a moment, led the poor fellow to believe that he had a schoolmaster's pride in his up and down strokes; the truth being that while the Secretary was capable, by an effort, of writing a hold and legible back hand, his ordinary chirography was decidedly loose in character.

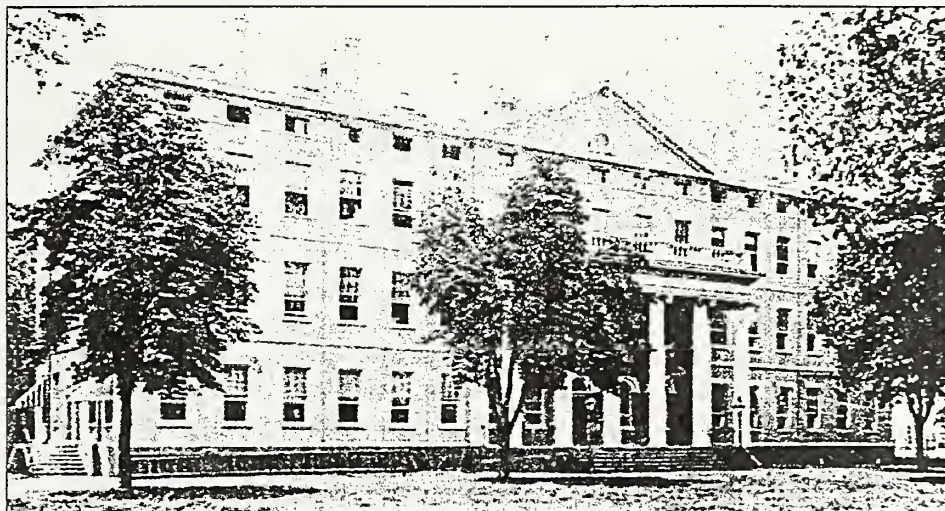
If I were to attempt, from his conversations, to name types of the kinds of men that Mr. Stanton admired, I should select Governor Morton, Secretary Fessenden, Senator Zachariah Chandler, and General Sheridan. Ruggedness was a characteristic that attracted instead of repelled him, as witness his active friendship for the scarred, cynical, and peniless exile, Gutowski, perhaps the queerest of many queer characters that have made Washington their abiding-place. For Mr. Lincoln the Secretary had an esteem and affection that put their relations entirely apart from those which he formed or maintained with any other man of the period.

Even if President Lincoln had lived, it is improbable that Mr. Stanton would have continued at the War Office long after the return of peace. He did not like administration, and in ordinary times would no doubt have preferred the Attorney-Generalship to any other office in the cabinet. Nor did he like politics, and the little talk there was at one time of his entering the Senate when he could be spared from the War Department never found an echo with him. Doubtless he hoped to find a place in the Supreme Court when he could properly leave the cabinet of his chieftain and friend; and considering his almost fanatical devotion to the law, he ought to have made his mark in the annals of that high tribunal. But his health was so precarious till a period subsequent to Mr. Lincoln's death that he probably thought

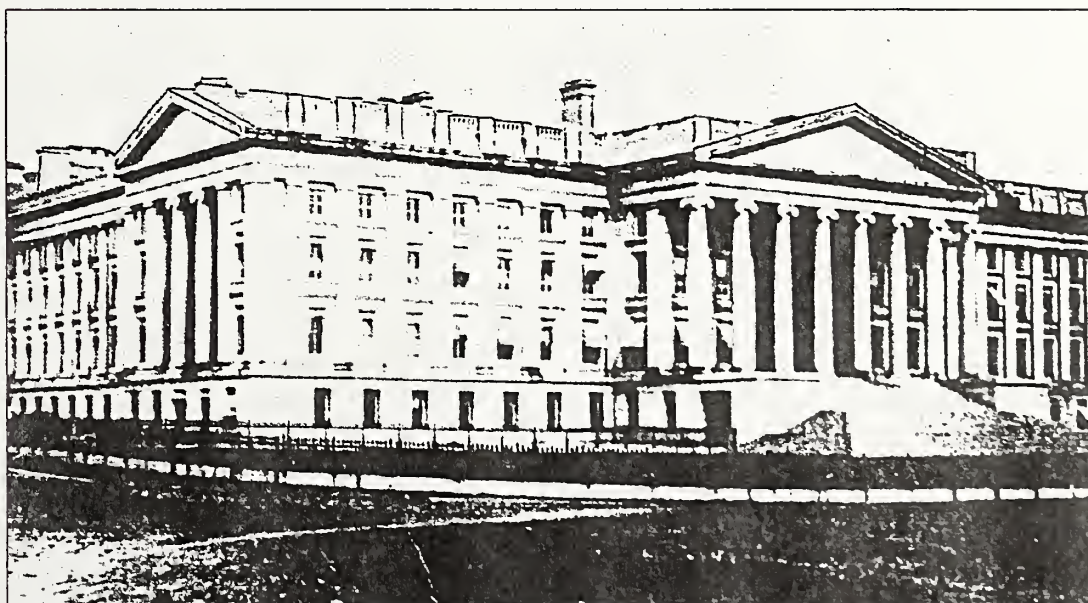
little at that time about his earthly future. The length and manner of his continuance in Mr. Johnson's cabinet was of course entirely unpremeditated from one stage to another. I feel warranted in adding that it was against both his wishes and his judgment, and I know that he lived to regret this one conspicuous instance in which he permitted others to decide what his duty was at a great emergency.

When, on the failure of the impeachment of the President, Mr. Stanton abandoned the War Department, he was a beggar not only in health but in fortune; even the one dwelling that he possessed was heavily mortgaged, and so continued till his death brought the true state of his affairs to light, and gave able and willing friends an opportunity to do what they would have been glad to do earlier, except for his own proud silence.

*This article appeared in the "Century Co", New York, Vol. 33, 1886-1887, and is reproduced as such with its original formatting, spelling and punctuation. It was never published in the "Battles & Leaders".*



Rear and front view of The War Department as it appeared during the Civil War. (Library of Congress)





A LETTER FROM STANTON.

The Stanton debate was continued by Mr. Hepburn, of Iowa, who severely criticised Mr. Wheeler's speech upon the late Secretary of War, and declared that he could not tamely submit to have the men who were embalmed in the hearts of their countrymen, and whose memory was revered, derided by such as the gentleman from Alabama.

He then yielded to Mr. Kelley, of Pennsylvania, who read the following letter, written by Mr. Stanton to Rev. H. Dyer, under date of November 18, 1862:

Your note of the 11th inst. has remained unanswered because of pressure of business which left me neither time nor strength to respond. When Gen. McClellan failed to obey the order of the President to move against the enemy, given on October 1, I thought he ought to be removed upon the spot. Nearly a month, time enough to have had a victorious camp, was lost by his disobedience of orders. When his creatures, and those who are enemies of the country, undertook to apologize for his delay by the false pretense that he needed supplies that were held from him by the War Department, my duty to the country required the exposure of the falsehood, and I demanded a report on the subject from the General-in-Chief. It is not my fault that he was not removed before the New York election, after his disobedience of orders. In respect to any combination by Mr. Chase, Mr. Seward and myself against Gen. McClellan, it is utterly false. For reasons not necessary to mention, fire and water would as soon combine. Each does his duty as he deems right. In respect to the imputation of selfish or ambitious motives dealing is needless. Those who make the imputation do it ignorant of my principles of action or with prejudiced feelings, and, like all other public men, I must be misinterpreted and bear misconstruction and false report. In respect to the present condition of affairs, all I can say is that the whole power of the Government is being put forth with more vigor, and I think more earnestness, on the part of military commanders, than at any former period. Treason is encouraged in the Northern States by the just discontent of the people. But believing our national destiny is as immediately in the hands of the Most High as ever were the children of Israel, I am not only undismayed, but full of hope. For myself, turning neither to the right hand nor to the left, serving no man and at enmity with none, I shall strive to perform my whole duty in the great work. Mistakes and faults I no doubt may commit, but the purpose of my actions shall be singly to the public good.



# Lincoln's Great War Minister



**N**EAREST to Lincoln of all the Cabinet stood Edwin M. Stanton in the dreadful drama of 1861-65. Stanton was the moving spirit of the Lincoln administration, says Mr. George C. Gorham, and two or three of the most momentous steps in the war were inspired by him. He had the will and energy of a dozen average men, and in the darkest hour of the Union, just before the battle of Gettysburg, it was he who supplanted Hooker with Meade, and forever turned the tide of misfortune.

## Stanton's First Love in Politics . . .

Edwin McMasters Stanton was born at Steubenville, Ohio, Dec. 19, 1814. His father was a physician of excellent standing and a member of the Society of Friends. The death of his father when the boy was at an early age made it necessary to place him in a book-store, where he read a great deal. He was finally sent to Kenyon College, where he committed the one act that alienated all his father's friends from him. He "went over to Jackson." This act was characteristic of Stanton's whole career, for while he was at college in 1831-32, the growing hostility between the North and South began to take definite shape under the nullification policy of Calhoun's leadership. Jackson's nullification proclamation won over young Stanton to him. From that time on he was a staunch Union Democrat.

## In the Buchanan Cabinet . . .

He studied law, and began practising at Cadiz, Ohio. His great ambition was to reach the very head of his profession. He worked for the election of Van Buren in 1840, and, thinking that the South had unfairly defeated his choice, he became a Free Soiler, but remained in the Democratic Party, and even upheld the Dred Scott decision, opposed to slavery in theory as he was. On Dec. 20, 1860, the very day that South Carolina declared the Union dissolved, President Buchanan nominated Mr. Stanton for his attorney-general. He was then 46 years old, and this was his first public office. He stood faithfully by his chief in what the dominant Republican Party called his ignominious exit from office.

## Had no Confidence in Lincoln . . .

Stanton believed at the time, and some months after, that neither Mr. Lincoln nor his party was capable of dealing with the war. In fact, we are told that he cordially despised Mr. Lincoln as a man. When Fort Sumter was seized, and when the first disastrous Bull Run had occurred, he wrote to Buchanan, secretly arraigning Mr. Lincoln and his administration. But he was never for a moment other than an uncompromising war Democrat. He felt deeply humiliated over the failure of Mr. Lincoln to crush the insurrection in the outset. Stanton and General McClellan were at this time warm personal as well as political friends, and Stanton blamed Mr. Lincoln for McClellan's failure.

## Becomes Lincoln's War Minister . . .

On Jan. 13, 1862, Mr. Lincoln nominated Mr. Stanton for his Secretary of War without having consulted him. The latter was of course much astonished, and asked General McClellan whether or not he should accept. He then told McClellan for his sake he would accept to help him put down the rebellion, for even at that time Stanton had not learned to have any confidence in Mr. Lincoln and his party.

On the very day that McClellan had come to Washington to explain his failures, Stanton took office, and immediately inaugurated a positive vigorous war policy. One of his first acts was to place himself between the public treasury and the "villainous crew of thieves," jobbers, and contractors who were looting it.

## On the Dark Eve of Gettysburg . . .

McClellan was succeeded in turn by Burnside, Hooker, and Meade. Hooker's defeat at Chancellorsville, which induced Lee to invade Pennsylvania, was of course the most critical period in the war for the Union cause. Mr. Lincoln was greatly depressed, now, on the eve of the battle of Gettysburg. At Mr. Stanton's request he went to the latter's office in the War Department. It was at night. For a while neither spoke. Mr. Lincoln at last said: "Stanton, you want to speak to me; you have something to communicate; let us calmly counsel with each other. I am ready to listen." The secretary replied: "Yes, I do want to say something to you; I want to tell you the trouble that oppresses me at this time. I'll not mince words, for I feel that you want to know the worst." "I do," replied Mr. Lincoln. "Speak out, then; I'll be listener." Mr. Stanton then told him that he greatly dreaded the approaching battle between the Confederates, flushed with victory, and the Union army, suffering from its recent defeat.

## Stanton Supplants Hooker with Meade

"In short," said Mr. Stanton, "I have not confidence in General Hooker, tho his personal courage I do not question." "I don't disagree with you," said the President; "but you recollect the old saying, 'While crossing a stream, it is too late to swap horses.' Stanton, have you any other general to suggest?" The secretary replied: "I have thought of General Sedgwick, but you know he will not accept. I have thought of others, and arrived at the same conclusion. The best of them are not without detractors. There is one that I would suggest—General Meade, with whose record and ability I could find no fault; and as a Pennsylvanian he has patriotism enough to draw out all the latent energies of his nature." "And will fight well on his own dunghill," interposed the President. "Yes, yes, he would never disgrace the state!" "Stanton, there is no time to be lost. You must have conceived a plan. If you can satisfy my judgment that this expedient will prove a master-stroke and lead to success, I will cooperate

with you and give it my approval."

## The Union Army Instantly Revitalized . . .

The secretary's plans were all written, and the two took them up and went over them seriatim. They were signed and immediately put into execution. General Meade was instructed to take command of the army; General Hooker was instructed also of General Meade's succession. This intelligence was to be carried down the lines to all the corps commanders. Before the ink was hardly dry on the President's signature, a trusted army officer was speeding over the railroad on a single locomotive to General Meade's headquarters. The new orders revitalized the army in an instant, and all the world knows how it went into battle to win—and did.

With the success at Gettysburg came the fall of Vicksburg, which also redounded to the glory of Stanton, who was no less responsible for Grant than he was for Meade. Mr. Lincoln said at this time that he had never taken an important step in the war without first consulting Stanton.



# THE EARLY LIFE OF EDWIN M. STANTON.

## New Stories About the Great War Secretary—Peculiar Compound of Courage and Cowardice; of Harshness and Gentleness.

Correspondence Commercial Gazette:

STEUBENVILLE, O., July 13.—Edwin McMasters Stanton, Lincoln's great War Secretary, is one of the leading figures of the War period that has been studiously neglected by biographers. Up to this time no accurate sketch of his life has ever been written, and few reviewers have taken the trouble to set forth his character in its true light. Of his life in Washington, when he had to do with the most stirring events of the nation's history, everything is known; but of his parentage, his boyhood and the peculiar environments that produced a character at once harsh and gentle, cowardly and brave, little knowledge has gone beyond the confines of the place of his nativity—where people are yet living who knew him intimately, and where anecdotes of his early life are in every old inhabitant's memory.

The mold in which Stanton's character was cast began with the settlement of a North Carolina colony in what is now Mt. Pleasant Township, this county. The North Carolina people were Quakers. They were themselves slave-holders, and thought nothing of it. They were visited by speakers from England, and these men spoke to them about the enormity of their sin, and the horror of such a traffic in and use of human beings. They were quick to open their eyes, and, once having them opened, as speedily began to do what they could to right the wrong in which they had participated. They did it conscientiously and thoroughly. At great sacrifice to themselves, financially, they undertook the manumission of their slaves. The latter were freed as rapidly as was consistent with enabling the negroes to look out for themselves. But the people of North Carolina—and of the South—were not all Quakers. Those who were not had no scruples, and it was but natural that they should at once make their disapprobation known. The Quakers became very unpopular; but they persisted in manumitting their slaves until the situation became so tense that the Legislature took up the subject. A law was enacted making it a criminal offense to manumit a slave, and providing that the manumitted slave should be apprehended and sold again. This, of course, stopped the work of manumission, but it did not ease the Quaker conscience. They sent a committee to the Northwest Territory, that immense scope of country north of the Ohio River, where there was to be no slavery. The committee decided upon what is now Mt. Pleasant Township. Returning home and reporting, the Quakers ratified the report, sold their North Carolina property at a sacrifice, and, with their slaves, removed to Ohio. Arrived here they at once set their slaves free and organized a colony. They were later joined by Quakers from Virginia and New Jersey. This colony was the first step in favor of human liberty and against slavery. The minutes of the meetings of the colony have just been brought to light by one of the younger generations of the Roberts family.

That was the stock from which Stanton came. Is it any wonder that, when slavery became the vital issue, he took the part in its suppression that he did? Though born and reared in Steubenville, the county seat, he was always in touch with the Mt. Pleasant community, and the North Carolina ex-slaveholders. The prominent sentiment there from the start was strongly anti-slavery, and it remained so until slavery perished. This sentiment could not but have biased the life of the future War Secretary. His father, David Stanton, was a North Carolinian, and Quaker. He came to the colony ten years after it had been established. So also did the McMasters family, also North Carolina Quakers. His father, a physician, married a daughter of this family early in 1814, and at once moved to Steubenville, where he began the practice of his profession, and where, ten months later, in December of the same year, Edwin was born. Dr. Stanton was, for the time, an able and educated man, extremely kind of heart and old womanish in his ways. Kindness was his marked characteristic. Mrs. Stanton was a motherly woman, not brilliant, but possessed of good common sense. Dr. Stanton at once picked up a fair practice, and by his genial nature made many friends. His course of treatment was of the old, old time, when bleeding was resorted to for almost every ailment. Several of the older citizens of Steubenville still have scars by which they remember him. Though educated and able, for the time, and falling into a fair practice, also for the time, Dr. Stanton was exceedingly poor. Mrs. Stanton was deeply dejected for some time before the birth of Edwin. She believed that she was going to die, and that the child would die also. Then she worried because proper preparations had not been made for the reception of the little stranger. That her worry was not without reason is shown by a well-founded tradition that the Todd family sent the clothes to the house with which to cover the new arrival.

It was into this almost poverty that Edwin M. Stanton was born. His father, though, however poor in purse, was growing rich in friends, and they remained friends of the first born throughout his career. Steubenville then had what might be called the reigning families. There were the McCooks, who later became famous as the "fighting" McCooks; the Colliers, the Moodeys, the McDowells, the Tappans, the Turnballs, the Todds, the Buchanans, the McGowans, the Orths and the Nortons. Dr. Stanton did not anticipate long life, and made such provisions for his family, which was increased to two

sons and two daughters, as he could. About two years and a half after Edwin's birth, he bought what is now known as the Stanton homestead, on North Third street, opposite the old Red Lion Hotel. He was always afraid of being carried away by apoplexy, and wore his collar open and low, secured only by a small, black band. One day when Edwin was about twelve years old, the doctor was out attending to business, when he began to feel sick. Returning home at once, he fell on reaching the door, and soon expired. The widow was thrown on her own resources with four small children and no revenue except from a small grocery—a very small one. A copy of her advertisement is still kept as a curiosity. It is unique for its closing line, the most prominent of the whole, "Good Vinegar for Sale." There were no public schools in Steubenville in those days, and Edwin had been attending a private school conducted by James P. Miller, a Scotch-Irishman and a seceder preacher. The death of his father, however, made a great deal of change. Soon after that he took a position in the Turnbull bookstore, and was soon after sent to Columbus to clerk in the branch store. It was there that he met Mary Lansing, daughter of the rector of Trinity Episcopal Church. They were young, but the attachment then formed ripened into the deepest love, and on reaching manhood's estate he made her his wife. In the meantime Daniel L. Collier had been appointed guardian of the children, and shortly after he filed suit to sell the homestead property, as it was necessary for their support. George Buchanan was then conducting a private school, and when Edwin returned from Columbus he took him in hand and gave him instruction gratuitously. Dr. Stanton had been his family physician, and Mr. Buchanan's son afterward studied law with Stanton. Edwin soon after went to Keuon College, and from there to the office of his guardian, Daniel L. Collier, where he studied law. These two men he never ceased to thank. He has been known to stop in a speech and, pointing to Buchanan, say: "There is the man who made me."

As a boy Stanton was as peculiar as he was a man, the exact opposite of his brother Darwin. In fact, it may almost be said that he had no boyhood. He was proud from near infancy as it was possible for him to be proud, from the time he knew what feeling was. He never made mud pies, could never be induced to go out into the streets to play with other boys, and was always neat and tidy. He thought himself above the average of boys, and the boy who became his intimate had to be more than ordinary. He was

the same with the girls. In boy and youth he was the beau and escort of Eleanor Buchanan and Elizabeth Collier, daughter and niece respectively of his two principal benefactors, but they were more like brother and sisters than anything else. They are both still living here, Miss Buchanan as Mrs. Galloway and Miss Collier as Mrs. Dohrman, the former about Stanton's age. As boy and youth Stanton was an indefatigable student. His reward was won by hard study at his books, though progress was stimulated unusually by the influence of his friends among the reigning families. He cared nothing for society, and rarely went to any place of entertainment or amusement. The town then had special dances in old Washington Hall, but they had no attraction for him, though they were attended by the reigning families in force; not even on such gala occasions as when Gen. Stokes appeared in full uniform, when everybody in town of the upper set was supposed to be there. Later, as he became settled, he enjoyed an occasional chat with chosen male friends over a glass of brandy and a cigar, but this was his only relaxation. Thus, it can be seen that his life up to this time was anything but anecdotal, except that it was marked by the peculiarities and sarcastic speeches, that became so strongly developed in later years.



After completing his study of law Stanton, at the age of twenty-two, entered into partnership with Benj. Tappan, and removed to Cadiz, Harrison County. It was at this time that he disappointed many of his friends, and did a thing which even to this day does not seem to have been an act of principle. He turned Democrat. He had been raised a Whig. His guardian and legal preceptor was a Whig, and that had been his father's politics. It was naturally supposed he would follow in their footsteps, but he ruled differently. His change of residence gave him the opportunity, and he suddenly developed as a full-fledged Democrat. The Whigs then were in a hopeless minority. There was then no question of slavery, the parties being divided on banking, tariff and other economic questions. But later, when the Democratic party agreed to the Fugitive Slave law, and the Dred Scott decision passed into history, Stanton did not leave the party. He remained with it, notwithstanding all the traditions of his boyhood and youth were against it. This was another disappointment to his old friends,

but they stood by him staunchly and to a man. There are few young lawyers who have climbed the ladder as rapidly as Stanton. He left Cadiz in 1838, when Tappan was sent to the Senate, and again made his headquarters in Steubenville, in partnership with George W. McCook. They appeared in a number of important cases, and one of his early fees was one of \$2000, a large one for those days. His party urged him to run for Attorney General of the State, and when he refused they besought him to run for Congress, but he declined that also. He was a natural politician, but he was not after office. His ambition was in the law, and even the Attorney Generalship could not satisfy it. In 1842, however, he accepted the position of reporter of the Supreme Court, and the eleventh, twelfth and thirteenth Ohio reports are his. One of his early cases was what is known as the Wheeling bridge case. He was employed by the river men, and fought it so successfully that the bridge company was compelled to remove the structure. He earned the undying enmity of the people of that city, and later, when he met with an accident by which he broke his leg, they said it was a judgment sent upon him. In his comparative early practice, also, Stanton met and was associated with Lincoln in reaping machine cases. Their friendship began there.

The mere assertion of Stanton's rapid progress in the legal profession is about all the public interest in the matter requires. It is of interest, however, to learn how he reached such national prominence, and so suddenly, by means outside of his incidental legal acquaintance with Lincoln. It was mainly brought about by his desertion of the Whigs and his alliance with the Democrats, strange as this statement may seem. It required but a few years for him to outgrow Steubenville, though the Jefferson County Bar was regarded as one of the ablest in the West. From here he went to Pittsburg. There he came in contact with Jeremiah Black, Dallas, and other leading Democrats. Buchanan was elected President, and Black went into his Cabinet as Attorney General. Black and Stanton had already become great friends, but Buchanan knew little of him. One of the biggest questions Black had to handle was the settlement of cases in California involving large tracts of land, arising out of Spanish land grants. If there were valid, of course they would be recognized. Stanton was appointed special counsel in charge, and going to California, put in about two years working the cases up very successfully. In the meantime momentous things were happening in the East. Lincoln had been nominated. Stanton went to Washington—he had an office there as well as in Pittsburg—and was busily engaged in closing up the California business when Buchanan's Cabinet went to pieces. Black was the only man who remained, and he was made Secretary of State. Stanton was on the ground and in favor, and was made Attorney General, as surely a creature of circumstances as

ever came to the surface in the history of politics. Lincoln was unfortunate in his Cabinet in making Simon Cameron Secretary of War. The country was becoming divided. The Republicans, in order to conciliate the war Democrats of the North, were offering to divide the offices. It became necessary to make a change in the War Office. A war Democrat was desired, and again Stanton was at hand and available. His appointment was received in a chilly manner, but it was not long before it met with approbation. Cameron had run things in a free and easy style. Stanton came down at once with an iron hand. With Cameron newspaper correspondents had been as much at home as in their own offices. They had a clear swing of everything. Stanton changed all this. One correspondent was a little vehement in his demands and protests, and Stanton sent him to the Capitol under guard. With this began much of his trouble. Stories, which his friends claim had no foundation, were given currency, and they live even to to-day.

Those who knew Stanton in childhood, and those who knew him in later years, say he was very autocratic, even to roughness—this is the chief fault they have now grown to recognize—but they claim he was refined, kind and gentle, and always a gentleman among gentlemen. On the other hand, he could out-bully the greatest of bullies, and would stop at nothing to crush a ruffian. As an attorney and as Secretary of War his course was determined and without deviation. He was a genuine terror where necessity demanded, but where it did not his hand was as soft as a woman's and his manner as gentle as a child's. Ill-mannered and

rough he undoubtedly was, but only where that trait of his character was brought out by force of circumstances. Many stories were told of this phase of his character which were never publicly denied, though in private letters he made reference to them. Some of these letters are in the collections turned over to Mr. Gorham. One of these stories relates to Lincoln, and, as it was told, his ill manner and roughness were simple brutality. It was repeated here a short time ago in a lecture by Department Commander Townsend, G. A. R., of Athens, O. A committee of Congressmen had conceived the idea that the army would be benefited by transferring troops from the West to the East and the East to the West. They went to Lincoln and he agreed to it, but told them to see Stanton. This is the conversation alleged to have taken place:

"Did Lincoln say that?" from Stanton.

"Yes," from the committee.

"Then Lincoln is a d—d fool!" from Stanton.

The horrified committee returned and reported to Lincoln. He slowly rose from his chair and asked:

"Did Stanton say I was a d—d fool?"

"He did."

"Well, if he did it must be correct, as I have never known of Stanton being wrong."

Complimentary as the remark of the

President was, it can not possibly make up for the brutality of the one accredited to Stanton, and the whole story is unequivocally denied, though it is still repeated by intelligent men like Gen. Townsend.

As stated, Stanton could out-bully any bully he ever encountered. But he could not, or would not, fight. This was shown here in the early days of his practice, when he was in partnership with George W. McCook. Stanton was a very close cross examiner, an exasperating one. He would pursue any tactics that seemed necessary to bring out what he sought. He rarely found a witness who could stand before him, and as a rule the opposing counsel was constantly on his feet yelling objections. Then he had the disagreeable habit of exulting over his opponent outside of court, good naturedly, of course. For once he got hold of the wrong man, in Roderick S. Moody, an attorney whose name has gone down as among the greatest lawyers Ohio has ever had. They had been through a tantalizing case, in which Stanton had had the best of it. Coming out of the Court-house Stanton began his rally. This was too much for Moody. He was a small man, and Stanton should have whipped him easily, but Moody never stopped to think of that. He simply let drive, and Stanton measured his length on the ground. McCook witnessed the affair, and true to his family characteristics, rushed out to take his partner's place in the fistful controversy. Stanton got up slightly dazed, but without the slightest particle of fight in him.

One other anecdote about Stanton before he attained any fame. He was sent for by a man who had been arrested for counterfeiting. After talking the case over, he saw that the man was guilty, and that there was no possible chance to acquit him, and refused to take the case. The man begged him, and offered him a large fee. He was very poor, and the fee was tempting, but he still refused. Leaving the man he called on David McGowan, then a member of the Federal grand jury, and borrowed money, on which to return home. At the same time he told him of this case. "Why didn't you take it?" asked Mr. McGowan.

"I am too young a lawyer," Stanton replied, "to accept certain defeat. If I was older it would not matter."

There was nothing about defending a guilty man to hurt his conscience. He did that often later, notably in the Trotter murder case, famous in this section. There never was a case in which public feeling was stronger against a defendant. Trotter's acquittal was entirely out of the question, but Stanton fought so hard, and against such odds, that he got the man a remarkably short penitentiary sentence. In these cases Stanton always thought of his Quaker ancestry, and got one of the sect on the jury if possible.

The gentleness of Stanton's nature was shown most clearly with young attorneys for whom he had formed a liking, and he liked all who worked and studied hard.

For what of sourness, gruffness, ill-nature and dissatisfaction there was in Stanton's disposition there was ample cause, notwithstanding the closeness with which he was surrounded by the best of friends, and the remarkable progress he made in his profession, and later the prominence he attained and so suddenly in public life. Born into such poverty that kind neighbors had to supply the little garments with which he was clothed, it was a hard blow for him to lose his father just when he should have been at his studies the most steadily, and just as his father was beginning to make something more than a mere living. Then the loss of his wife was a terrible blow. His marriage was as true a love union as ever was. It had continued but two years, one child, Edwin L., being the result, when his wife was taken away. Then came the news of the suicide of his only brother at Holiday's Cove, across the river from here. As the oldest of the family, as soon as he began to make any money, he did



everything in his power, and he had great hopes of this young brother in the profession of his father. When the news came that Darwin had cut his throat, it was thought he would break down completely. Darwin had been suffering from nervousness and melancholia. His widow is still living, and for years has been employed in the mint at Philadelphia and the departments at Washington. These two deaths brought out the tenderness of the woman and the strength of the man in Stanton. He idolized his young wife, and almost collapsed at her death. Mrs. Geo. Collier was called to her death chamber, and later Eleanor Collier, one of the girl friends of his boyhood, came. As she entered, he broke down utterly. Throwing his arms about her neck, he wept like a child. She was the stronger of the two, and he had to be led from the room. His mother was present, and, with the pride of a mother, pointed to the bureau, crowded with clothes, and a bulging purse, saying:

"That is the way Edwin always cared for his wife. His fear was that she would want in his absence, and he kept her well supplied, even at a sacrifice to himself." Stanton remained a widower for years, but finally married Miss Eleanor Hutchinson, of Pittsburg, who is buried with him in Washington, while the first wife rests here by the side of their son, Edwin L.

Stanton's grief at the funeral of his brother was none the less great because it was silent. He was the escort of the widow, and his bearing was brave and scold. His mother was supported on the arm of Col. Geo. Collier. The Quaker in her came out on entering the cemetery, when she stopped abruptly, and looking up into his face, asked:

"Do you think Darwin is saved?"

"He is in the hands of God," was all the Colonel could say. It was, he said, the most affecting incident he has ever experienced.

Stanton's stubbornness—and almost lack of manners and gratitude—came to the surface in another domestic case. His sister Luella was married to a Tappan, one of the reigning families, and one of the family to which Edwin was attached by his first law partnership. Mutual friends endeavored to bring about a reconciliation, but they always found Edwin on guard. Finally Geo. Buchanan, his old teacher and benefactor, was prevailed on to do what he could. On reaching the Stanton home he was greeted by Edwin himself, who planted his foot firmly in the door.

"I know what you came for," he said abruptly, "and you may as well have stayed away."

"But can't I come in?" asked Mr. Buchanan, completely taken back by the coolness of his reception.

"Yes, you can come in, my house is always open to you!"

Conversation ran on ordinary topics, when suddenly Buchanan asked if he could not see Luella.

"Yes," replied Stanton, "you can see her, but not a word about this."

And there wasn't a word either. Mr. Buchanan went away with his mission unfulfilled.

There has been a very lively discussion as to the location of Stanton's birthplace, for the last six months. The generally accepted idea has always been that it was the old homestead house on North Third street, opposite the Red Lion Hotel. As already stated, Dr. Stanton bought that property about two years after Edwin's birth. Robert Sherrard adheres to a site farther up on North Third street, and says Stanton pointed it out to him in 1868, saying "That is where my mother says I was born." John Attig, a young man with Stanton, who boarded with him at the Black Bear Hotel, says Stanton told him he was born in the house which, years afterward, he pointed out to Sherrard. Mrs. Walker, an estimable woman, a neighbor of the Stantons when they lived in the homestead, had a son born one day later than Edwin. The mothers had engaged the same nurse, and the trouble that ensued caused some friction between the two families for some time. When asked some years later where Edwin was born, she replied the old homestead. She is said to have stated in Wollsville, however, that he was born in Market street. Several old people have always inclined to the latter, and it is particularly upheld by the Todd tradition, which has come down through the Surratts. And now Mrs. Wallcott, Stanton's sister, writes an emphatic letter, in which she says her mother always told her Edwin was born on Market street. The Historical Society's investigations point to this. Still, Stanton himself owned several lots adjoining the Sherrard location, and held them until during the war.

Stanton's last visit to his old birthplace was in 1868, when he delivered an address here. He was then a broken-down man, physically and intellectually, and his speech was a great disappointment to his old friends. It will be remembered that he was appointed a Justice of the Supreme Court by Grant, but he was not able to leave his house to qualify, though his closest friends here say that was the height of his ambition.

# PRAISES STANTON AND DISPARAGES LINCOLN

## Here Are Views About Two Great Civil War Characters, and How Far Are They Sustained in History?

One of the girls behind the counter—earning \$6 a week, with a mother to care for, rent to pay, and fuel to buy—is a descendant of Edwin M. Stanton. Some of the other girls know it, but they are not just sure who Edwin M. Stanton was, what he did, or whether he was a shoe clerk or a common floor walker.

A colored woman came in the store the other day with a little black-faced boy.

"What do you call the boy?" asked the descendant of the great war secretary.

"Abraham Republican Lincoln Jones," proudly answered the ebony-faced mother.

Of course, when you ask colored persons who freed them, they are sure to say it was Abraham Lincoln and the Republican party.

Few people think of Edwin M. Stanton, or associate him with the great war and its success. All people do not get their just dues on this earth. There will come a time when the civil war will be written differently from what it is to-day, and then we're likely to hear something interesting about Stanton.

But when you do meet a colored person, in search of information, just tell them the truth, that it was a Democrat—Edwin M. Stanton—who planned the battles that saved the union of these states and incidentally freed the negro. Lincoln and the war were two huge failures until this Democrat took hold of the war office, called in the officers of the union army, and said to them—very politely: "Now, gentlemen, we will, if you please, have some fighting. It is my business to furnish the means, and it is your business to use them. I leave the fighting to you, but the fighting we must have."

That was the command of a young man who had started out in life to write a book entitled "The Poetry of God." He never finished the book. Young Ed, Stanton used to say that "God, in all His communications with man, clothed His language in the highest imagery. All light and all color, that make life beautiful," young Stanton went on to say, "are the affair of a little nerve God has endowed us with to enjoy his precious gifts, that after all, live only in our brain. This principle, I maintain, runs through all, and the highest religion, if not the only religion, is in a true appreciation of God's works. Thus we work our way through nature up to nature's God." It was this Bible loving youth, who

saved the union of these states, and made it possible for Lincoln to give freedom to the negro.

I am very much interested in Little Anna—the descendant of the great Stanton—and that is why I run into history this morning. Lincoln and his War Secretary, Simon Cameron, had made a failure of the war.

Disaster, after disaster, followed the union army. Organized dishonestly, plundered at will. McClellan was in supreme command. In fact, he and not Lincoln was president. Lincoln realized this and said that Stanton—the rabid Democrat—was the man to subdue McClellan. He sent for Stanton and Stanton agreed to take the place of Cameron.

"I accept the office for three reasons," said Stanton. "I will make Lincoln president of these United States; I will force that man McClellan to fight or throw up; and last, but not least, I will pick Lorenzo Thomas up with a pair of tongs, and drop him from the nearest window."

For a year the union army had been evading battles; with Stanton as secretary of war, the word peace was wiped out and the artillery roared and the mighty roar was kept up until Lee surrendered. Stanton did the thinking, the planning and did the worrying. Lincoln, himself, said he never lost an hour's sleep over the war. Lincoln could not have won the way he started out. He probably would not have won but for Stanton. Lincoln gets all the credit—all the honor and all the glory for which Stanton planned, executed and carried to a finish. With the end of the war Lincoln was assassinated.

Stanton was killed by the work he had done, and died a martyr to the union of these United States. After the battle was won and victory perched on our banner, character assassins pursued Stanton and they hurried his death. Even Grant, to whom he gave the opportunity to be great, proved an enemy to Stanton. The few wanted all the honors for themselves, and they denied to the real campaign planner a share of the laurels.

The negro reveres Lincoln, and knows little or nothing about the man who brought about the manouvers that saved the union.

Little Annie has every reason to be proud of her distinguished ancestor—the youth who started out with the Bible. Of course were Annie a descendant of Lincoln, no doubt she would have a better position than is allotted her now.

CLARA LA ROSE.

Scranton, Pa., April 10.



No appointment that Mr. Lincoln made in all the term of his Presidency reveals his large-mindedness to allow personal feeling or even dignity to interfere with what he considered the public good than that of Edward M. Stanton to the War Department in January, 1862. Perhaps no man in all his life had made him more uncomfortable treated him more superciliously, perhaps he may have felt insultingly than this man that he now made his Secretary of War.

Stanton knew more of the difficulties and dangers of the problem which faced the new administration—much more than Mr. Lincoln himself, for he had been Attorney-General for a period in Mr. Buchanan's Cabinet. He had gone in without realizing the situation, and had discovered to his horror that there was treason on every side. He had told Sumner in January of 1861, of course in the strictest confidence, that from his position inside the Cabinet he had learned that the conspiracy was widespread and profound. He pictures himself as surrounded by secessionists so that he had to watch every word he said and every person that he saw. His judgment of the situation was then utterly contrary to that of Mr. Seward.

Stanton watched Lincoln's hesitation in the first few weeks after his inauguration with angry hopelessness. He made no allowances for the kind of information and counsel Lincoln was getting from his Secretary of State, no allowance for the time that must be spent by the administration in getting acquainted with the situation. His contempt and bitterness were openly expressed and openly quoted in Washington. Lincoln was an imbecile—Jefferson Davis would be in Washington "next month."

But, if he was contemptuous, he was, everybody knew, violently loyal to the Union.

Stanton went into office full of righteous indignation, tense with his passion for the Union. He was blunt, almost brutal in his declaration that the abuses of which he had been complaining must stop, there would be no more corruption in the War Department, there would be no more orgies of officers, there would be no more waste of time, no more sitting about talking, Washington must be reorganized, the army must move, everybody must work, work, work!

#### *Stanton's Start in New Office Forceful and Impetuous*

THE forceful and impetuous start that Stanton made in his new office scared more than one observer. You will never be able to get on with Stanton, they told Mr. Lincoln. "Well," he said, "we may have to treat him as they sometimes did a Methodist minister I knew out West. He would get so excited in his prayers and exhortations that they put bricks in his pockets to keep him down. We may have to do that with Stanton, but I guess we will let him jump awhile first."

And he let him jump, though he himself was one of the first to come under Stanton's vigorous feet. Stanton looked in the President's informal dropping in at the telegraph office to chat with the boys, his going about unattended, as subversive of efficiency as well as dangerous; he took seriously what Mr. Lincoln put aside with a laugh or philosophic remark—the incessant rumors of plots to kidnap or murder the President. The military telegraph office was changed to less convenient quarters, guards were set about, and visitors came only by

permission. Mr. Lincoln must have an attendant. He seems to have taken it in good part when the Secretary suggested it, but in a very few days he wrote him:

"On reflection I think it will not do, as a rule, for the adjutant-general to attend me wherever I go; not that I have any objection to his presence, but that it would be an uncompensating encumbrance both to him and me. When it shall occur to me to go anywhere, I wish to be free to go at once, and not to have to notify the adjutant-general and wait till he can get ready.

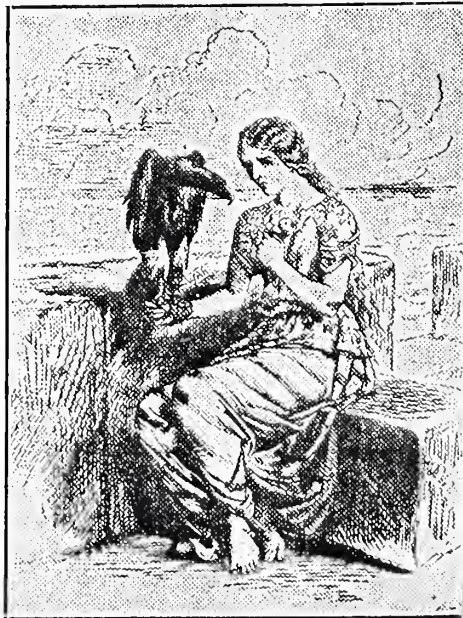
"It is better, too, for the public service that he shall give him time to the business of his office, and not to personal attendance on me."

This was a neat way of turning the tables on the Secretary, for if there was any point on which Stanton had been emphatic it was that everybody henceforth give his time to the business of his office.

#### *New Secretary of War Unquestionably Able Person*

ONE who attempts to follow Mr. Lincoln by day through these months cannot but have a profound feeling of satisfaction in seeing finally a vigorous, downright, hard-hitting and unquestionably able War Secretary at his side. It was high time that he had somebody there to back him up in pushing things. The "Little Napoleon," who had come in with such tremendous applause in July of 1861, because, so the country believed, he would take Richmond and end the war before Christmas, when January of 1862 came around was sitting where he had placed himself on his arrival in Washington.

Just as Mr. Lincoln had promised, everything that the country could give had been given McClellan—men, money, and the hardest thing for it to give—patience. That is, the President had kept his promise to



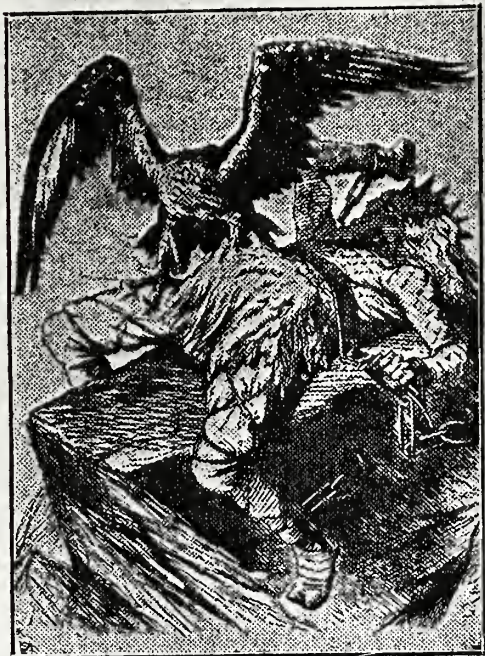
Columbia: "Which answer shall I send?"

McClellan, but he knew well enough now though McClellan seems not to have had a shadow of comprehension of the fact, that the supply of the last of the three was giving out, and that, however much the President might be disposed to extend patience, he could not do it very much longer. He would have to do something with the splen-



did army which he had built up. Could Mr. Stanton help him move McClellan? That was really the important thing in January, 1862.

Now, Mr. Stanton and General McClellan had seen a good deal of each other in these last few months, and Stanton had spit out to the General much of his venom about the incapacity, the inefficiency and imbecility of the administration. McClellan said later that he was often shocked by the extent to which Stanton carried his criticisms, though he himself, we now know from his published letters of this period, was often insolent. He had, too, before Stanton's ap-



King Cotton Bound; or, the Modern Prometheus.

pointment, become resentful of suggestions—even inquiries as to his plans from those who because of their relation to the government certainly had a right to be treated with consideration if not full confidence—and this included the President. Even as early as November John Hay wrote in his diary:

"I wish here to record what I consider a portent of evil to come. The President, Governor Seward, and I went over to McClellan's home tonight. The servant at the door said the General was at the wedding of Col. Wheaton at Gen. Buell's, and would soon return. We went in, and after we had waited about an hour, McClellan came in, and without paying particular attention to the porter who told him the President was waiting to see him, went upstairs, passing the door of the room where the President and Secretary of State were seated. They waited about half an hour, and sent once more a servant to tell the General they were there, and the answer came that the General had gone to bed.

How much had Stanton to do with encouraging the General in his growing disrespect for Lincoln, in his irritation at Congress, in his refusal to move, to divulge plans? It looked very much as if his association with McClellan might come back now as a boomerang. How it turned out we shall see in our next chapter.

(CONTINUED NEXT SUNDAY)

AMERICAN STATESMEN

Stanton  
1814-1869  
(55)  
(Brainer)

Asynopsis, showing the order and content of the notes to be made for each biographical study.

- I. SOURCES. A. References to lists of sources.  
B. Detailed Lists of Sources
  1. LITERARY a. Primary  
b. Secondary  
c. Fiction
  2. OBJECTIVE. Places, Museums, Pictures, Monuments, statues, etc.
  3. MISCELLANEOUS. Sense Impressions, Music, Philology, Anthropology, etc.
- II. PORTRAIT AND OTHER PICTURES.
- III. MAPS. Fullpage outline maps. Residences and travels.
- IV. ANCESTRY including chart or "family tree".
- V. BIOGRAPHICAL CHART. All events to be entered on the page relative to their chronological position in the century.
- VI. STATISTICAL RECORDS of personal characteristics, etc.
- VII. OFFICIAL ASSOCIATES. ( Cabinet officers, of presidents)
- VIII. STORY OF LIFE. A brief biography of salient facts.
- IX. RELIGION.
- X. SUMMARY.
  1. For what lasting achievements do we honor the subject of this study ?
  2. Why was he great ?
  3. What was the driving motive of life ,or- wherein lay the power of the personality studied ?
  4. What is the personal significance,- that is,- the value of the life of this person studied to your life ?
- XI. VERBATIM QUOTATIONS FROM WRITINGS OR SPEECHES.
- XII. MISCELLANEOUS NEWSPAPER AND MAGAZINE ARTICLES. EULOGIES. POETRY.

(If you use color in any of your charts, for the sake of uniformity, please use green for periods of youth, red for maturity, and blue for last periods. Use, ofcourse, more colors if you desire, but follow this scheme so far as practical. )



*Stanton*  
*2*

## I. Bibliography of Bibliography.

- A. The Americana Vol. 25. P. 485-487
- B. The Britannica Vol. 25. P. 783.
- C. Dictionary of America Biog. Vol. V

## II. Literary Sources

- A. Primary Sources.  
None

- B. Secondary Sources.

- 1. George C. Gorham -Life and Public Service of E. M. Stanton
- 2. F. A. Flower--Edwin M. Stanton--The Autocrat of Rebellion  
Emancipation, and Reconstruction.
- 3. D. M. DeWitt--The Impeachment and Trial of Andrew Johnson.
- 4. Historical Sketches--Maj. Evan R. Jones.
- 5. Reminiscences of Public Men--Ex. Gov. Benjamin Perry.

## III. Fiction.

- A. The Thorn in Lincoln's Side.--from Mentor Mag. Nov. 1929.  
by W. E. Woodard.
- B. Bishop Matthew Simpson--by Clarence True Wilson.--from  
Current Hist. mag. Vol. 17. p.46 N. 29

## IV. Objective Sources.

- A. In George C. Gorham's Book.
- B. Portrait in Mentor Mag. Vol. 17. P. 46 Nov. Issue 1929.
- C. Portrait in Current Hist. Mag. Vol 31. P. 104 Oct. Issue 1929
- D. Portrait in Harpers Mag. Vol. 113-P.831. Nov. 1906.
- E. Portrait in Century Mag. Vol. 74-P. 613--Aug. 1907.

John Brauer  
Am. Statesman.

STANTON'S TRAVELS IN THE UNITED STATES.



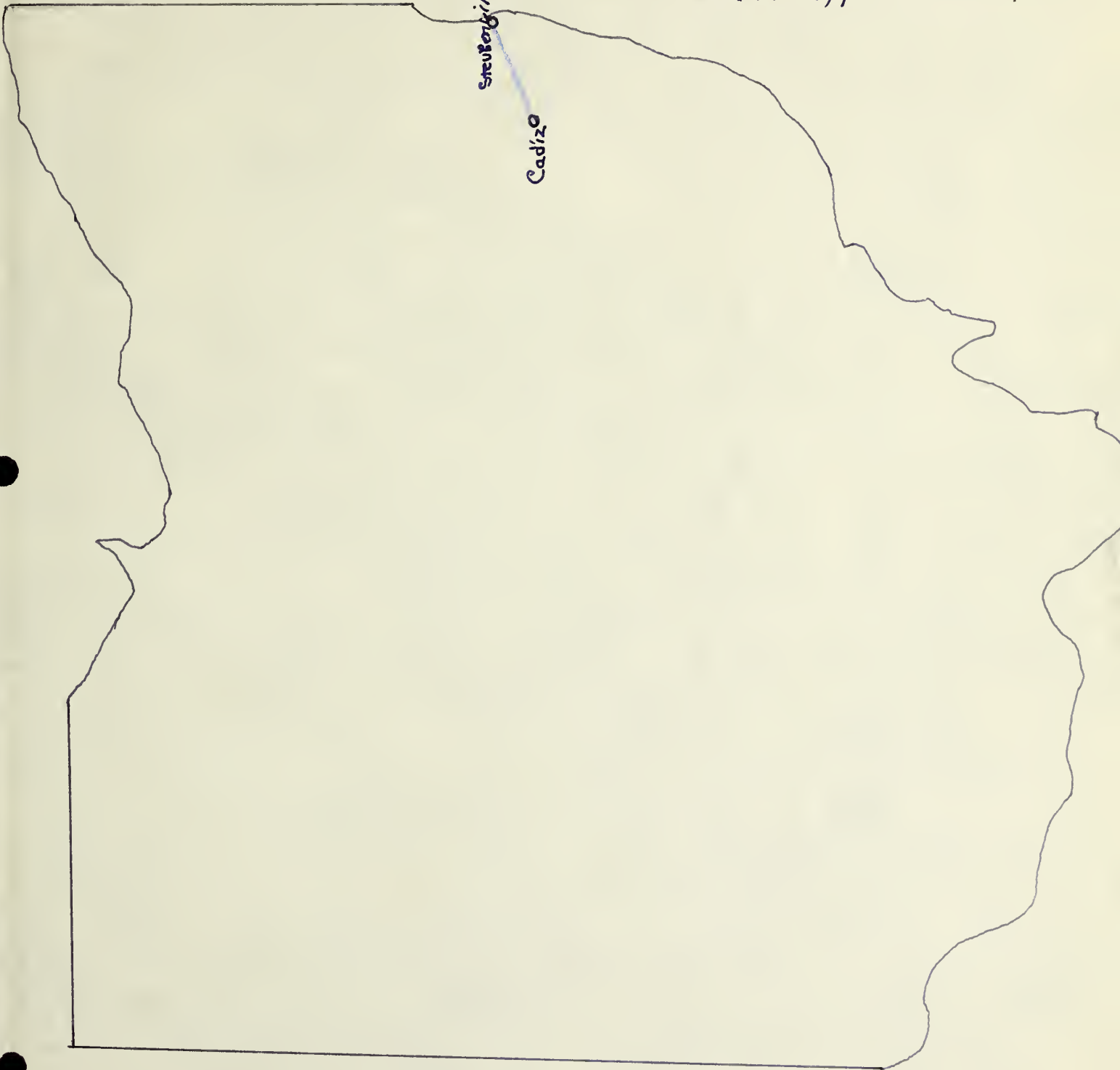


STANTON'S NATIVE STATE

1. Born in Steubenville
2. Had a law Office at Cadiz.

Steubenville

Cadiz



	80		
1750 Washington	90		
1797 Adams, J.			
1801 Jefferson	1800		
1809 Madison	10		
1817 Monroe	20	Early Life	
1825 Adams, J. Q.			
1829 Jackson	30		
1837 Van Buren			
1841 Harrison-Tyler	40	Early Political Life	
1845 Polk			
1849 Taylor-Fillmore	50		
1853 Pierce			
1857 Buchanan	60	Civil War Work	
1861 Lincoln			
1865 Johnson		Later Life	
1869 Grant	70		
1877 Hayes			
1881 Garfield-Arthur	80		
1885 Cleveland			
1889 Harrison	90		
1893 Cleveland			
1897 McKinley			
	1900		

# CHART OF EDWIN McMASTERS STAMTON.

1814--Born in Steubenville, Ohio--Dec. 19.

1827--His father died, and Edwin, the eldest child was forced to work  
He clerk in a book-store.  
1831--He entered Kenyon College.  
1833--Left college to study law.

1836--He was admitted to the bar. Also married Miss Mary Ann Lamson.  
1837--Was elected Prosecuting Attorney of Harrison County, Ohio.  
1839--Was selected supreme court reporter  
1844--His wife died

1844--Moved to Pittsburg and set up a law business.

1856--Supported Buchanan. Moved to Washington. Married Miss Hitchison  
1857--He went to Calif. to attend to some Gov. land cases.  
a. Wheeling Bridge Case. Erie Railroad Case.

1860--Appointed Attorney-General of U. S.  
1862--Jan. 15 appointed Sec. Of War under Lincoln's wish.

Did admirable work as War Administrator.  
1867--Helped to pass Reconstruction Act. Was asked to resign as Sec.  
1868--Returned to his office, after Johnson dismissed him.  
1869--Appointed Supreme Court Justice by Grant. Died four days later  
at Washington, Dec. 24, 1869.



VI.

STATISTICAL RECORDS FOR BIOGRAPHICAL STUDY

1. NAME Edwin M. Stanton      Born Dec. 19, 1814. at Steubenville, Ohio.  
Died Dec. 24, 1869. at Washington, D. C.
2. LENGTH OF LIFE 35 years
3. F A M I L Y  

Father	Mother	Brothers	Sisters
David Stanton	Lucy Norman	2	1
4. PHYSIOGNOMY IN MATURE YEARS  

Height	Weight	Hair	Eyes	General Physique
Medium		Dark	Dark	
5. EARLY YOUTH Home training at Steubenville was that of an ordinary country boy. He had some elementary schooling and work on the farm. He was a very high moralled boy and loved to read poetry.
6. EDUCATION  

Elementary	Secondary	College and University
Country school	Some tutoring	Kenyon College of Cadiz.
7. MARRIAGE  

Date	Age	Name of Wife	Children	Descendants
1836	24	Miss Mary Ann Lamson	Two	The girl died at the age of 5
1856	44	Miss Ellen M. Hutchinson	Had two boys & two girls.	
8. H A B I T S  

Alcohol	Tobacco	Sports	Accomplishments
Never	Cigars		A fine poetry reader.
9. LIFE SERVICE WITH DATES  

Public Offices	Other Occupations
Pros. Attorney--1837	Sup. C. Reporter--1837
Attorney-Gen.--1860.	Sec. of War--1862.
Justice of Sup. Court 1869.	
	Book-store clerk.
	Lawyer
	U. S. land attorney.
10. DEATH      Date      Cause      Place      Place of Burial  
At 55Y Dec. 24, 1869      Illness--Washington D. C.      Oak Hill Cemetary
11. NOTABLE MONUMENTS AND MEMORIALS
12. HISTORY OF LIFE.      Best Biographies      Authorship. Names of his books.  
Edwin M. Stanton      George C. Gorham  
F. A. Flower

### Life of Edwin McMaster Stanton

Edwin M. Stanton was born in Steuberville, Ohio, December 19, 1814. His father, a physician, died when Edwin was a child. His name was David Stanton. After acting for three years as a clerk in a book-store, he entered Kenyon College in 1831, but left in 1833 to study law. Stanton was admitted to the bar in 1836 and began to practice in Cadiz in 1837. He was elected prosecuting attorney. He returned to Steuberville in 1839 and was supreme court reporter of Ohio from 1842 to 1845.

In 1848 he removed to Pittsburg, Pennsylvania and in 1857, on account of some business for the U.S. Supreme court, he established himself in Washington. He went to California during 1857 and 1858 attending to important land cases for the government. Some of the notables cases he took charge of were the Erie Railway litigation, the Wheeling bridge case and the Manning McCormick Reopen Contest in 1859. A short time later Stanton was appointed attorney general under President Buchanan.

Stanton was originally a Democrat of the Jackson school and until Van Buren's defeat in the Baltimore convention of 1844, he took an active part in political affairs of this locality. He favored the Wilmot proviso to exclude slavery from the territory acquired by the War with Mexico, and sympathized with the Free-soil Movement of 1848 headed by Van Buren. Stanton was an anti-slavery man, but his hostility to that institution was qualified by his view of the obligation imposed by the Federal Constitution.



He had never held a public office before entering Buchanan's cabinet except as prosecuting attorney in Ohio. While in the cabinet he took a firm stand for the Union.

The whole system of the War was inefficient and re-organization was imperatively demanded. Stanton brought to his work great executive ability, prompt decision and strong will which made itself felt throughout the whole military service. He had scant patience with men who were seeking personal advantages or with frivolous calls upon his attention. He advised the President to authorize a law taking full possession of all the railroads and telegraph lines in United States, and this was at once enacted. He also ordered that all contracts of supplies and manufacture be in writing. On February 14th he directed the release of all persons who had been arrested on suspicion of disloyal practice, with a few exceptions.

Mr. Stanton's entrance into the cabinet marked the beginning of a vigorous military policy. On January 27th 1862 the first of the President's war orders were issued prescribing a general movement of the troops. His impatience with General McClellan caused a friction, and cast McClellan's position in favor of General Grant. Grant was promoted soon after his victory at Fort Donelson, putting him in complete command of three armies.

President Lincoln said he never took an important step without consulting Stanton. On the eve of Lincoln's second inauguration, he proposed to allow General Grant to make peace terms with General Lee and that Stanton dissuaded him from such action.

Nothing in the history of the Civil War is more remarkable than the speed with which the vast armies of the United States were dissolved on May 1, 1865, a million men were on the rolls of the army. In sixty days 700,000 of them had returned to their homes. Stanton was responsible for the quick and efficient action.

A few days before the President's death Secretary Stanton tendered his resignation because his task was completed but was persuaded by the President to remain. After Lincoln's assassination a serious controversy arose between the new President Andrew Johnson, and the Republican party and Mr. Stanton took sides against the former on the subject of reconstruction. On August 5, 1867, Johnson demanded the resignation of Stanton, but Stanton refused to give it up before the next Congress meeting. He was suspended by the President on August 12 and on January 13 1868 he was restored by action of the senate. On February 21st of the same year the president informed the senate that he had removed Stanton from office. Stanton refused to surrender his office after the action of the Senate had shown upon his case. At a later hour in the same day the senate resolved that the president had not the power to remove the Secretary. The impeachment of the President followed and on May 26th the vote of the senate being "guilty 35, not guilty 19" - he was acquitted because of the two thirds majority requirement.

After Stanton's retirement from office he resumed the practice of law. On December 20th 1869 he was appointed by



President Grant as justice of the supreme court, and he was confirmed by the senate. Four days later he died. The value to the country of his services during the Civil War cannot be over estimated. His energy, inflexible integrity, comprehensive view of the situation in its military, political, and international aspects, his powers to command and supervise the best services of others, and his unbending will and invincible courage, made him at once the stay of the President, the hope of the country, and a terror to dishonesty and imbecility. The vastness of his labors made him many enemies. But none ever questioned his honesty, his patriotism, or his capability.

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF EDWIN STANTON

Edwin M. Stanton was a very aggressive man, he was born to lead in a storm. He was a man of patriotism, wisdom, and firmness. He could not tolerate remissness, and he would not permit sympathies. He would have rather offended every officer in the army than compromise on a situation. Stanton was a man of great ability and showed this in his reorganization of the War department and his supervision of the department. He was a very direct and straight forward man; he was a man who could say "No" for the government when it needed to. He had unusually good influence over men.

At heart, Stanton was an exceedingly kind man. He had a pleasing personality, and very polite manners. Stanton's honesty was unquestionable and this was the reason why he had so many enemies. They were all envious of his honesty. He devoted every bit of his energy of mind and body to his task. Sometimes he would work all night in his office planning and scheming how he could get to most benefit out his attacks. Stanton was a firm believer in the Union. His faults were chiefly those of temperment, he had a very tempermental disposition, and many times repented his actions which came from impulses. His tongue was just as sharp as his temper was violent.

Stanton was very fond of poetry and could read it in an extremely interesting manner. He was overly fond of nice horses. In his boyhood he often took care of horses from which he retained an evernoticable interest in horses.

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF EDWIN STANTON

A peculiar trait, or a series of unusual happenings gave Stanton the name of a man with a storm swept life. On Dec. 19, 1814 it was snowing and blustering the day he was born; blowing and drifting on the evening of his marriage Dec. 31, 1836; sleeting and gusty on the day his wife Mary Lamson died March 1844; snowing and drifting when he was summoned from Pittsburg to be placed in Buchanan's cabinet in Dec. 1860; blowing a gale when he was selected as Sec. of War in January 1862; rainy and stormy when Pres. Grant selected him to be an associate justice of U. S. Supreme Court, Dec. 1869; sleeting and stormy on the night of his death Dec. 24, 1869, and cold, foggy, drizzling, and gloomy on the day of his burial Dec. 27, 1869.

The idea for which he laboured and died was for the salvation of his country.

Stanton's Religion

Edwin M. Stanton was a true Methodist. He was a very consistent church-goer. He believed faithfully in the Bible, and carried the ideals of his religion with him in every walk of life.



John Brauer,  
American Statesman,  
March 30, 1938.

## Edwin M Stanton

### 1. For what lasting achievements?

We honor Edwin Stanton for his ability to organize and conduct the Secretary of War's position so efficiently. Stanton's work during the Civil War was admirable and his leadership superb.

### 2. Why was he great?

He was great because of his aggressiveness and his desire to accomplish. He was great inasmuch as he had ability to give commands. He was great because he believed in himself and the Union and its laws. He was energetic and ambitious. His honesty was unquestionable. He was firm in his beliefs. He had an untenable will to succeed. He was very patriotic.

### 3. What was his personal significance?

Edwin Stanton was an admirable man. He was very religious and did not tolerate the vices of liquor and gambling. He was direct and sincere. He was aggressive and powerful.

### 4. What was his driving motive?

He was ambitious and wanted to be a good lawyer, and he was.

VERBATIM QUOTATIONS

1. By Hon. John A. Bingham;

"His name will be remembered with the names of the demigods and the heroes, who, through an unprecedented conflict saved the nation alive."

2. By Miss Annie Collier Meredith of Omaha;

"Mr. Stanton was an angel to his family and the weak and poor. He was always sorry for his mistakes."

3. By Louis A. Walker, and old playmate.

"Stanton was always positive, and in the latitude given or taken in boys' plays and games was somewhat imperious; never combative or abusive. Self-reliance, however placed him advance of others with whom he lived, and his invincible energy kept him there to the very end."

4. By Judge Holt;

"His loyalty to the Union cause was a passion."

5. By F. A. Flower;

"No man in the history of United States has been so thoroughly misunderstood."

6. Stanton once said of Lincoln, when they both were lawyers at the same trial. "If you let that ape come into this case I refuse to continue the case." This impressed Lincoln so that he said to his friends, "I am going home and study law."

John Brauer  
Am. Statesman

W. E. Woodlard description of Edwin Stanton.  
from an article in The Mentor Mag. Nov. 1939.

Woodlard says:

"Stanton was sly and slippery, a born politician, limited in social vision. His eccentricities were monumental. He was lacking in physical courage, and sometimes exhibited a bit of hysteria. Even worse, he had a broad streak of disloyalty to his friends and superiors."

Woodlard believed Stanton was chosen to take the general blame of <sup>the</sup> administration in charge of the war.

Woodward also says. "Stanton's favorite gesture was to intercept applicants for pardons sent to the President, and ~~to~~ tear them up and throw them into the waste basket."

Woodward claims Stanton spoke, not once, but again and again of Lincoln as being a fool and an ignoramus.

He also believed Stanton's honesty did not extend any further than the sphere of financial affairs.



E. M. Stanton

I B of B -E. B. 14 th Vol "1 Page 317

II Primary

Private Letters

III Secondary

Gorham Life of Stanton

*Howe, J. F.*

Mc Master-Life of Stanton

Jones- Lincoln, Stanton and Grant

Kelly - Lincoln And Stanton

Perry Remmernisernes of Public Men

Dewitt- Impeachment and Trial of Andrew Johnson

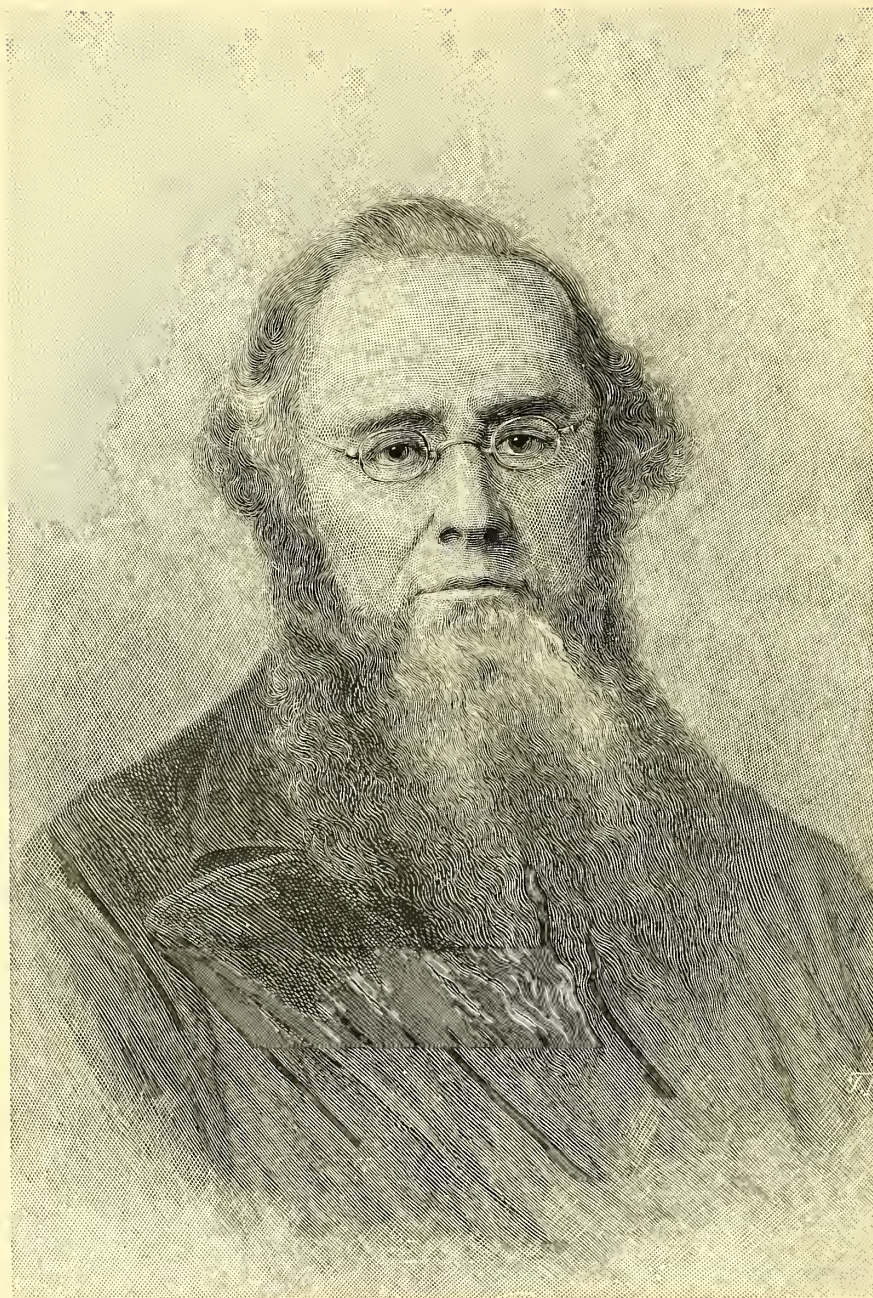
IV Fiction

Man of Ages- Bachleor

V Objective

Home in Washington D. C.

Pictures- Gorham



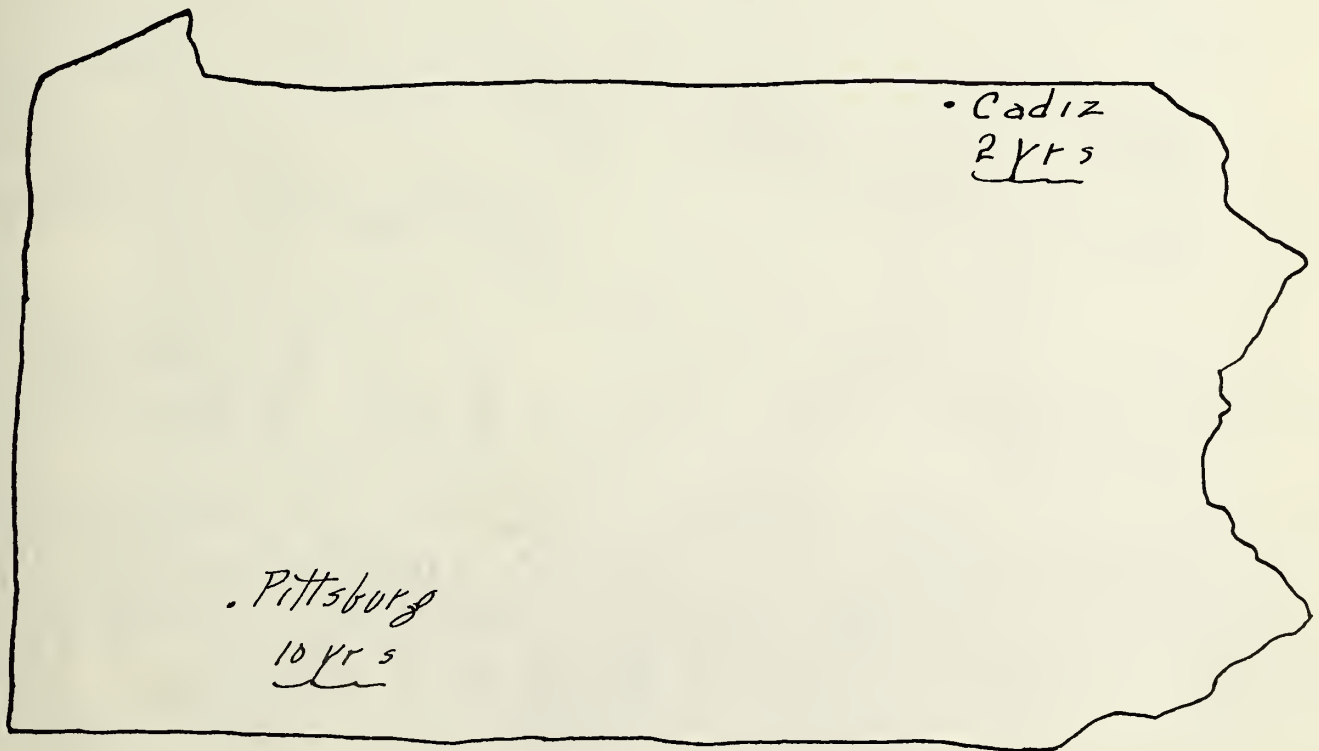
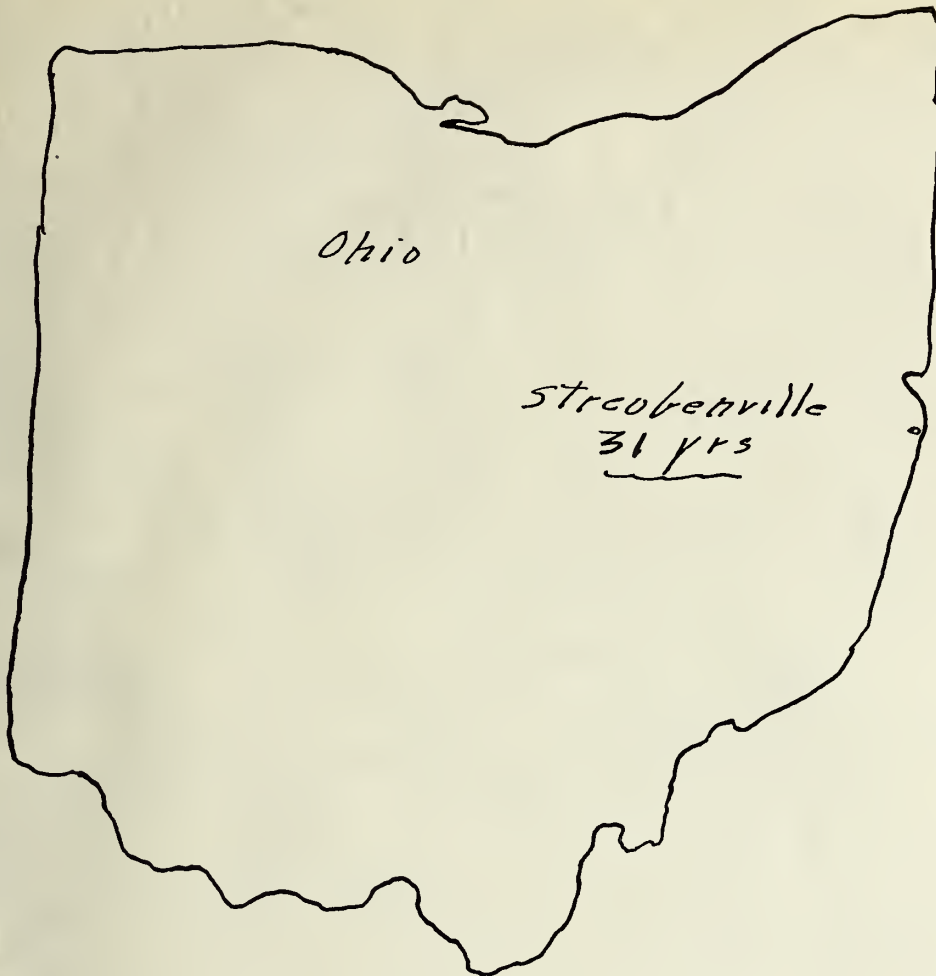
From *Abraham Lincoln: A History*, John G. Nicolay and John Hay.

**EDWIN M. STANTON, SECRETARY OF WAR**

From a bitter and abusive enemy Stanton became a loyal and devoted admirer of President Lincoln. The story of this transformation is of rare interest.



Stanton





E. M. Stanton

I Linage

B. Stanton married Marry 1784

Died 1780

1800- moved to Ohio

Six children David a phisician

David a son married Lucy Norman

Edwin born of this Dec.19,1814

Quacker family, son turned on marriage left sect

II Life

Born Dec. 19,1814

Puny baby sickly- Strubunville

8-Private School

8-Semenary

10-Latin School

12- B Methodist Church

13-Father died of apoplexy 1827

Mother opened a store

Position in book store, cirulating library

1831-Kenyon College Ohio

1832-Came home, never returned

Began work on law and slavery

1833-Cholreo plague Ohio

Studied Law

1835-Admitted to bar St. Clarisville before 21

1860- Private Citizen

Forced to move family to Pittsburg

1836-Moved to Cadiz- Partner in law of Dewey  
Married Lamson.  
Happy union  
1837-- Politics  
District Attorney- Democrat.  
1838- Back to Strubenville- Mason  
1840- Daughter born  
1841-Delegate to the State convention  
1844-Wife died- Never the same man  
Buried in baw work.  
Endorsed Mexican War.  
Prejudiced on Slavery.  
1847- Headquarters at Pittsburg.  
Large feature.  
Broke his knee on boat - caused limp  
Studied law  
1850- Bar of U. S. Supreme court.  
1856- Married Ellen Hutchinson  
Leased a home in Washington  
1851-Land claims Sent to Mexico to Settle it  
Absent nearly one year.  
Trial of Sickles  
1859- Invested in Land in Washington  
1860- Great home  
Favored Brickenridge  
Attorney General  
Southern Armament of Facts  
Favored North, troops etc.

1862- Sect. of War by Lincoln

Intercourse with Mc Clellan

Army supply resolution

Enforced arbitrary arrests of deserters

Released all political prisoners on parole

Released Mc Clellan of his command.



E. M. Stanton.

I.B. 9TB - E. B. 14<sup>th</sup> Vol 21 Page 317

II Primary

Private Letters

III Secondary

Gordon - Life of Stanton

McMaster . . . . .

Jones - Lincoln, Stanton & Grant.

Kelly - Lincoln & Stanton.

Perry - Reminiscences of Public Men.

Sewitt - Imprisonment & Trial of Andrew Johnson.

IV Linton -

man of Letters - Bachelor.

V. Ogden

Home in Washington D.C.

Pictures - Gordon

E. M. Stanton.

## I. Linage

B. Stanton married Mary 1784.

Died 1780.

1800 - moved to Ohio

Six children - David a physician.

David a son married Lucy Norman

Edwin born this Dec 19, 1814.

quaker family, son turned on marriage, left sect.

## II. Life.

Born Dec 19, 1814.

Puny baby sickly - Shubenville.

7? went school at D.

8 - Seminary &

10 - Latin school.

12 - Joined Methodist church.

1827-13 - Father died of palsy.

Mother opened store.

Position in book store, circulating library.

1831 - Kenyon college Ohio

1832 - Came home never returned.

Began work on law & slavery

1833 - Chelso played Ohio.

- Studied Law

1833 - admitted to bar at Shubenville before 21

background of administration.

1860 - Private citizen

Went to move family to Pitts.

1862 - Sec. of War by Lincoln

Interviewer with Mr. Clellan.

Army supply resolution

Enforced arbitrary arrests of deserters.

Released all political prisoners on parole.

Replaced Murellon of his command.



Adams, J.	1800			
801 Jefferson				
809 Madison	10			
817 Monroe	20	1814 Ohio Steubenville	Youth: B. Steubenville, Ohio Dec. 19, 1814. Began education at 7. Latin school at 10, Xenon C. (Gambier, O.) at 17. Joined Methodist Church 1827 Father died Dec. 30, 1827 Position in bookstore of James Turnbull. 1827. (Columbus) Left college for financial reasons 1832. Studied law in Steubenville; admitted to bar at St. Clairsville - August 1835. (active practice before he was 21).	
825 Adams, J. Q.		Columbus Steubenville		
829 Jackson	30			
837 Van Buren	40	Radiz <sup>1836</sup> Steubenville	Lawyer Jan. 1, 1836 - moved to Radiz, partner of Chauncey Dewey. Dec. 31, " married Mary A. Lamson of Columbus. 1837 - in politics - elected prosecuting attorney on Dem. ticket 1838 - returned to Steubenville; became Mason. 1844 - wife died. 1842 (a son born) Endorsed Mexican War. 1847 - headquarters established at Pittsburgh. Partner. Slater 1850 - admitted to bar of U.S. Supreme Court	(31)
841 Harrison-Tyler				
845 Polk		1847 PENN. Pittsburg		(33)
849 Taylor-Fillmore	50			
853 Pierce		1856 WASHINGTON	1856 - married Ellen Hutchinson; moved to Washington 1858 - sent to Calif. on Govt. and Mexican question. 1860 - built home in Washington	
857 Buchanan	60		Statesman - 1860 - made Attorney Gen. by Buchanan. Jan. 1862. Appointed Sec. of War by Lincoln. Prominent director and leader during war. Remained in Johnson's cabinet; was asked to resign; refused; refusal met with suspension (1867).	(48)
861 Lincoln				
865 Johnson				
869 Grant	70		Retired Citizen 1868 - Relinquished office; returned entirely to law practice D. Dec. 24 - 1869. in Washington. 1869 Dec. - offered justiceship in Supreme Ct.	(54) (55)
877 Hayes	80			
881 Garfield-Arthur				
885 Cleveland				
889 Harrison	90			
893 Cleveland				
897 McKinley				

# Edwin M. Stanton

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2. Guide to the Study and Reading of American History

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McMasters Stanton (1899)
2. Flower, D. A.  
Edwin McMasters Stanton the  
Autocrat of Rebellion, Emancipation  
and Reconstruction (1905.)
3. Jones, C. K.  
Lincoln, Stanton and Grant  
historical sketches.
4. Kelley, Wm. D.  
Lincoln and Stanton.
5. Perry, B. Z.  
Reminiscences of Public Men  
with Speeches and Addresses.
6. De Thitt, D. M.  
The Impeachment & Trial of A. Johnson

### IV. Fiction -

1. Man for the Ages - J. Bacheller
2. Marrow - H. A. - 'Not Full Measure'  
With Malice toward None

Adams, J.	1800		
1801 Jefferson			
1809 Madison	10		
1817 Monroe	20	1814 Ohio Staubenville	Youth: C. Staubenville. New Rec. 19, 1714. Began education at 7, Latin school at 10, Kaysan C. (Pembler, A.) at 17. Joined Methodist Church 1827 Father died Dec. 30, 1827 Position in bookstore of James Turnbull 1827. (Columbus) Left college for financial reasons 1832. Studied law in Staubenville; admitted to bar at St. Clairsville - August 1835. 'active practice before he was 21).
1825 Adams, J. Q.		Columbus Staubenville	
1829 Jackson	30		
1837 Van Buren	40	Ladiz <sup>1834</sup> Staubenville	Lawyer Jan. 1, 1836 - moved to Ladiz, partner of Chauncey Dewey Dec. 31, " married Mary A. Lamson of Columbus. 1837 - in politics - elected prosecuting attorney on Dem. ticket 1837 - returned to Staubenville; became Mason. 1844 - wife died. (1842 (a son born)) Endorsed Mexican War. 1847 - headquarters established at Pittsburgh. Penn. Valer 1850 - admitted to bar of U.S. Supreme Court
1841 Harrison-Tyler			
1846 Polk		PENN Pittsburg	
1849 Taylor-Fillmore	50		
1853 Pierce		1856 Washington	1856 - married Ellen Hutchinson, moved to Washington 1858 - sent to Calif. on Govt. and Mexican questions. 1860 - built barracks Washington
1857 Buchanan	60		1861 - made Attorney Gen. by Buchanan. Jan. 1862. Appointed Sec. of War by Lincoln. Prominent director and leader during war. Remained in Johnson's cabinet; was asked to resign; refused; refusal with suspension (1867).
1861 Lincoln			
1865 Johnson			
1869 Grant	70		Retired Citizen. 1868 - Relinquished office; returned entirely to law practice D. Sep. 24, 1869 in Washington. 1869 Dec. - offered justiceship in Supreme Ct.
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1885 Cleveland			
1889 Harrison	90		
1893 Cleveland			
1897 McKinley			



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2. Marrow - H. A. - 'Not Full Measure'  
With Malice toward None

I. Objective

House at Steubenville

" .. Washington

# Lineage of Stanton

Gorham, S. D.  
C. M. S. Life & Public  
Services. 2 v.

I. Stantons & Macys (Quakers). emigrated from Mass. to N. C. before Revolution.

A. Benjamin S. m. Abigail Macy 1774.

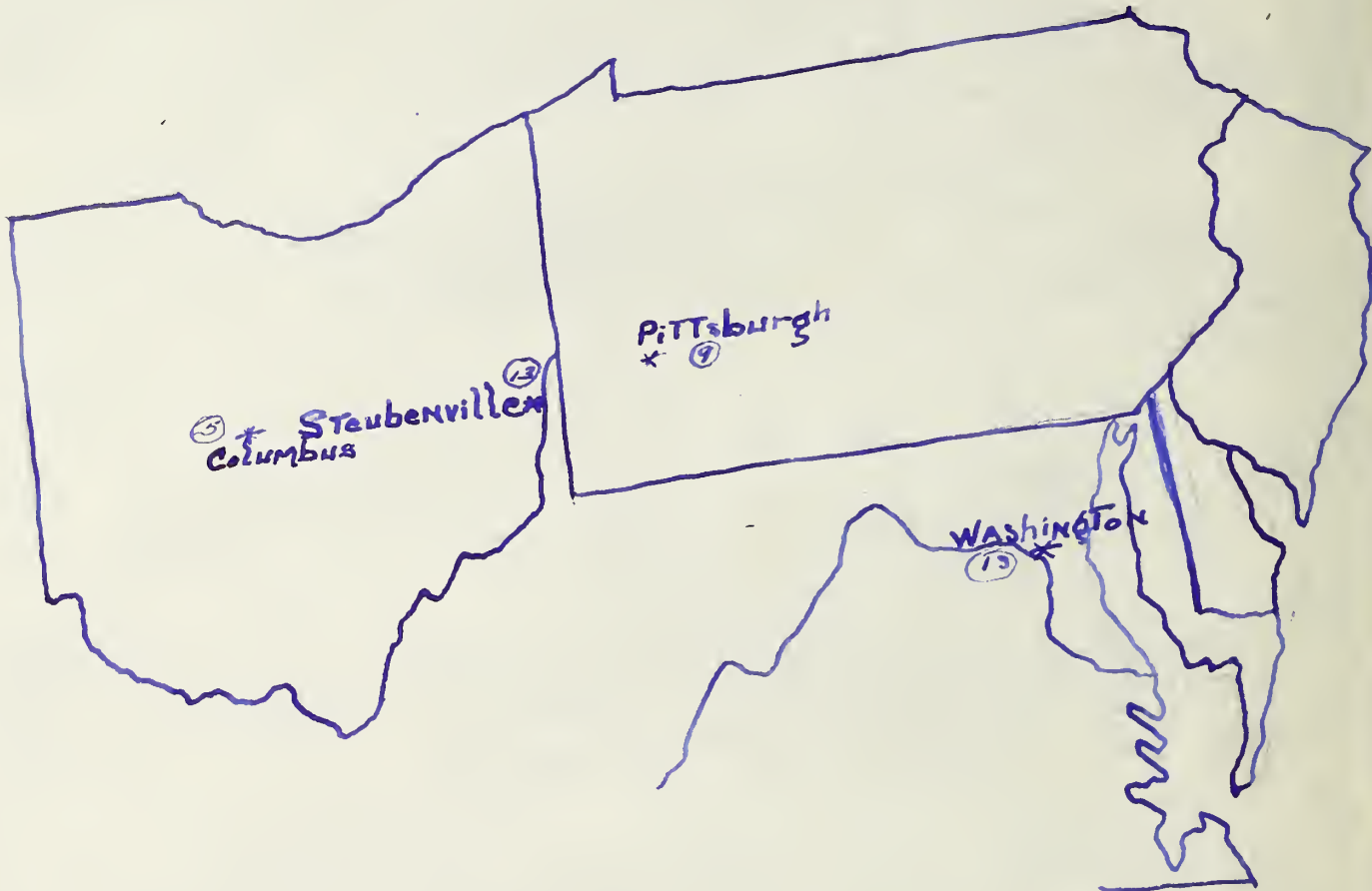
1. Benjamin died.
2. 1800. Widow & 6 children moved with married daughter & son in law to free NW Territory.
3. Abigail bought land at present site of Mount Pleasant, Ohio.
3. Son David - physician at Steubenville

B. David m. Lucy Norman - girl from Va.

1. Son - Edwin McMaster Stanton b. Dec. 19 - 1814.
2. Dr. Stanton. left Quakers; would not apologize for marrying outside his sect.



# Map of Stanton's Life



St. Clairsville } Ohio  
Ladiz

# Life of Edwin M. Stanton

Frank Abial Flower

## I. Early Life -

A. B. Steubenville, Ohio - Dec. 19, 1814.

1. First child of Dr. David and Lucy Norman Stanton.
  - a. Named in honor of Mrs. S's godfather - Rev. David McMasters
  - b. Very puny & sickly babe.
2. Began attending private school at 7.
3. At 8, was transferred to seminary conducted by Henry Orr, in the rear of his father's residence.<sup>22</sup>
4. At 10 yrs. admitted to Latin school of Rev. George Buchanan.
  - a. learned Latin, Greek, history & other higher branches.
  - b. assisted by father
5. Joined Methodist church on probation Jan. 27, 1827. (barely 12).
6. When Edwin was 13 - father died of apoplexy. Dec. 30, 1827.
  - a. Mother opened general store - son assisted & continued school.
7. 1827. position in book store of James Turnbull.
8. Organized circulating library during his apprenticeship. P. 24 COMMENT
9. Home influences were character molding.
  - a. father had wanted him to have college education & be physician.

B. Kenyon College - at Gambier, Ohio - April 1831

1. Left college Sept. 7, 1832. supposedly temporarily - to help financial situation at home; never returned.

2. Controlling influences & friendships found there.

a. His son Edwin L. graduated 1863. with the highest honors in the history of the institution. 25

### C. Work, Law & Slavery -

1. Within wk. after returning from college Stanton went to work for Turnbull in branch book shop - in Columbus.

a. 1833 - Ohio swept by cholera.

2. At end of year - decided to study law. <sup>wished to</sup> remained in Columbus.

a. Guardian Collier advised his return to Steubenville; obeyed.

3. Admitted to bar at St. Clairsville - Aug. 1835.

a. active practice before he was 21.

4. Jan. 1, 1836 - moved to Cadiz -

a. partner of Chauncy Dewey.

5. Married Mary A. Lamson of Columbus Dec. 31 - 1836.

a. Happy marriage

6. Became active in politics

a. 1837 - elected prosecuting attorney on Dem. ticket.

### D. Life in Steubenville

1. Oct. 1838. partnership with Benj. Tappan. continued partnership with Dewey at Cadiz altho he moved to S.

2. Became a Mason.

3. May 5, 1840 - delegate to Baltimore pres. convention

4. Dau. Lucy Lamson Stanton b. 1840.

5. Dec. 1841. delegate to Dem. State convention



6. Sorrow in death of Lucy.
7. Son Aug. 11, 1842 - Edwin L.
8. Death of wife, Mary. - March 13, 1844.
  - a. caused complete change of manner.
  - b. buried self in law
9. Endorsed Mexican war
10. When brother died, Stanton made home for his sister-in-law & 3 children
11. Practice growing. Higher courts of Ohio, Pa. & Va.
  - a. needed larger base.
  - b. 1847. Headquarters established in Pittsburgh.

## II. Stanton the Citizen -

### A. Connected with public affairs in Steubenville

1. Director of Fire Dept. March 5, '47

### B. Pittsburgh.

1. partnership with Chas. Shaler 1847
  - a. big practice
2. Fractured knee on boat. - studied law while recovering
3. Feb. 25, 1850 - admitted to bar of U. S. Supreme Court
4. Married Ellen Hutchinson - of prominent family. June 1850.
  - a. leased elegantly furnished a house on Washington on C St. N. 26.
  - b. Dem. association & frequent appearance in Supreme court caused move.
5. Sent to Calif. on Court Mexican ques.
  - a. absent nearly a year.
  - b. Health improved.
  - c. trial of Sickles & victory - added to prominence.
6. Oct. 1859 bought 7350 sq. ft. land

on N side of K St. (fronting Primrose Hill  
in Washington) (now Franklin Square)

- a. Brick & stone house built 1860.
- b. Purchased house in which Mary died in Steubenville.
7. Personally, favored Breckenridge on 1860 ticket.
8. Made Attorney-Gen. by Buchanan & Senate
  - a. violent surroundings
  - b. question of secession & arming southern forts
  - c. Did not favor U.S. abandonment of forts.
  - d. Reaction to S. commissioners p. 88
  - e. Wished to send more troops p. 94.
    - (1. sought pressure of public opinion upon pres. in favor of reinforcing forts.
    - (2. comment p. 98. - 'backbone of the administration')
  - f. Started active proceedings against govt. to be quelled.

9. March 5 - became private citizen.  
- "If Stanton had not entered the cabinet & clung to it and fought in it to the end in spite of indignities, disagreements, false hopes, false words, betrayals, & broken promises, the Fed. capital & its archives & the machinery of the Govt. would have fallen into their hands as planned; & J. Davis instead of A. Lincoln would have been inaugurated in Washington, & perhaps, as was hoped, without bloodshed!" p. 103-4.



11. Correspondence of public events - with Buchanan. intercepted

2. Washington -

1. Forced to move family because of uproar.

a. Letter to John A. Dix -

"No one can imagine the deplorable condition of this city and the hazard of the Govt who did not witness the weakness and panic of the administration, and the painful imbecility of Lincoln. We looked to New York in that dark hour as our only deliverance under Providence and, thank God, it came." p. 140

2. Resumed practice of law

3. Appointed by Lincoln, at suggestion of Seward & Peter H. Stanton, as Sec. of War to fill place of Sec. Cameron.

a. nomination sent to Senate Jan. 13. confirmed 15<sup>th</sup>.

b. "Interesting, indeed, is the fact that Lincoln was unaware that the iron-willed giant he was putting in was more stubbornly in favor of enlisting & arming the slaves of rebellious masters than the man he was putting out. L. was also unaware that the recommendation which, with his own hand, he had expunged from Cameron's report & which was the means of forcing its supposed author out, was conceived & written by the very man now going in - but so it was; & so it was that Stanton wrote his own appointment."



4. Intercourse with McClellan.
  - a. Not sought by Stanton (at once) as M. reported; never met until in Nov. '61.
  - b. difference p. 124 & 125.
  - c. Stanton wrote - "This army has got to fight or run away; and while men are striving nobly in the West, the champagne & oysters on the Potomac must be stopped." <sup>125</sup>
5. Wanted to purchase army supplies at home rather than getting gold in European coffers.
6. 'Arbitrary' arrests - for deserters, bounty jumpers, seizing lands & food.
  - a. Gen. Judson Kilpatrick & Gen. Butler - imprisoned by Stanton.
  - b. Feb. 1862 - released all polit. prisoners on parole.
  - c. requested Pres. to suspend Habeas corpus.
7. McClellan's disobedience p. 139 & 140.
8. All Dept. commanders forced to report to Sec. of War.
  - a. McClellan relieved of being Gen. in chief.
9. Famous 'morning hour'. p. 142.
10. Constantly worked to supply McClellan's plea for more men.
  - a. knew was better than M. - p. 150.
11. Stimulated plans for action to eliminate Merrimac from sea.
  - a. p. 156 - comment at end.

### III. During the War -

#### A. Sec. of War -

1. Stanton & Lincoln - constantly prodded McClellan.
2. Directed fighting on Miss. - Memphis secured.  
\*
  - a. Ss. river navy successful; transferred to Navy Dept.
3. McClellan's threat to surrender p. 169
  - a. picture facing p. 162.
4. Death of Stanton's child, James, detracted his attention from govt. affairs.
  - a. p. 171 - McClellan's sentiments.
5. Confed. purpose disclosed - M. still refused to act.
6. Indictment against McClellan p. 176.
  - a. p. 179; picture by Townsend.
7. Stand on Lincoln's platform. p. 182-3
  - a. Thought slaves must be dealt with as property.
  - b. Equipped negroes for Union cause  
(i. p. 184-185)
  - c. Impatient with Ls. slowness p. 188
8. Stanton - the great emancipator p. 189.
9. Striving after Antietam - in Nov. 1862. had wanted M. removed. p. 194.
10. No rest during days of attack on Gettysburg.
  - a. Meade's failure to strike after
  - b. of Gettysburg - cost 2 yrs. of war.
11. Saving of Rosecrans - after Chickamauga
  - a. gathered Dept. members in night
  - b. forces transferred from army of Potomac  
p. 205-207.
  - c. Confed. power broken in west



12. Stanton - not popular with news papers; attempts to quell hostility.

13. Perfect autocracy over military telegraph.

a. "Then the war ended, Stanton designated officers to take charge of all papers & writings in camp & field until the muster out had been completed, & bring the finished rolls & documents, together with all available insurgent records, to the War Dept. Without the latter order, thousands of the most important manuscripts & telegrams now possessed by the Govt. would have been lost. These orders illustrate the comprehensive mind with which Stanton looked into the future, and gave to the ages an authentic history of the nation's final struggle for life. As he made no journal of his doings & retained few or no private copies of his letters, this official record of the war was a treasure as dear as the blood of his heart. It was the written proof which, in the fulness of time, was to confuse his enemies and vindicate his course." p. 221.

14. "The Rebellion was the first great war in which military railways played a conspicuous part, and their feats under Stanton were so remarkable that several European



governments called for special reports upon them". 223.

15. Exchanging prisoners of war. no provision made for it when Stanton entered office.

a. Appointed commissioners & money to provide for prisoners - was refused by Confed. Sec. of War who wanted general exchange of prisoners.

b. Stanton could not take steps which would recognize S. as an equal Govt. though belligerent.

c. Attempted to send supplies to Libby prison; was refused.

d. South disapproved of arming negroes. p. 234-5.

16. Raising troops - "To Stanton's marked success in developing the full fighting strength of the North is largely due the preservation of the Union" p. 240.

a. draft riots.

b. "A man who votes must bear arms", he telegraphed to Gov. Solomon of Wisconsin.

c. Invalid corps.

d. Bounty jumping - a curse of troop raising.

17. Treason & traitorship found & censured.

a. dismissed postal messengers in War Dept.

b. Sons of Liberty, Knights of Golden Circle, Circle of Hearts etc.

weakened govt. & harassed Stanton

18. Peace overture - 1864 - p. 257  
a. Southern commissioners thought to be insincere; rejected.  
b. Stanton stood strongly for unconditional surrender.  
c. p. 258.

19. Cabinet meeting - March 3, 1865. p. 259

20. March 14 - Stanton visited Grant & upon return, suggested to Lincoln that he be near Grant to witness collapse of southern forces.  
a. L. went to City Point; Stanton found affairs in Washington better without him.  
b. p. 261-2.  
c. p. 262 - Stanton's speech to crowd, after fall of Richmond

#### IV. After the War -

17. In Johnson's Cabinet -

1. Determined course of action after Lincoln's death.  
a. sent Grant to Raleigh, N.C. to take charge of army.  
b. prevented assembling of southern state legislatures at once
2. "Stanton alone, understood Lincoln; he alone possessed the courage to prevent the President's misconception from reinvolving the Govt. in blood." p. 270-71. Note p. 271.
3. Stanton - acting president immediately after Lincoln's assassination  
a. Stanton - saved from death by broken bell-wire.  
b. Dictated good share of night to Dana.



c. "Thus he continued throughout the night, acting as president, sec. of war, commander-in-chief, comforter, and dictator. No one thought of questioning his authority nor hesitated to carry out his orders." p. 252-253.

d. As he darkened the windows after Lincoln's death he said impressively, "He now belongs to the ages!" p. 253.

4. Instead of returning home to rest. began long series of correspondence to W. S. Finckler, C. J. Adams, consulted Johnson, attended ceremony of swearing in new Pres, cabinet meeting, & then helped in plans to capture Booth.

5. Grand Review - projected by Stanton  
a. Sherman's affront.

b. p. 291 - quote.

c. Heart & soul of administrative & exec. work was Stanton; 'his second report of 1865 - is the most eloquent history of the Rebellion ever printed. Prophecy in conclusion.

"Henceforth there is no room to doubt the stability of the Union. No new rebellion can ever spring up that will not encounter a greater force for its reduction, & a foreign war would intensify the national feeling and thousands, once misled, would rejoice to atone for their error by rallying to



the national flag. The majesty of the national power has been exhibited; & the foundations of the Federal Union have been made eternal". p. 291.

6. S. - man of foresight & ability -

a. "The uniformly high grade of S's. personal appointments is as noteworthy as any feature of his administration". p. 293.

b. "While there is no known match for his physical & mental endurance and the unflagging force of his will, his lieutenants, constituting as effective & harmonious a staff as ever served a war minister, kept wonderfully up to his pace and contributed materially to his success". p. 293.

7. Attitude toward the defeated states -

a. Thought theory that the surrendered states had become part of Fed. Union was absurd, "and that every insurgent organization, civil and military, was wiped out by the victory of the Federal arms and that the conquered sections possessed no rights not granted by the conqueror. Said he, "A public enemy cannot come into Congress and vote down the measures proposed for his subjugation or reconstruction. The culprit cannot sit as a member of the jury in the trial of its own case". p. 301.

8. His reconstruction order was issued as a presidential proclamation in North Carolina.

9. Turmoil - rescuing Grant.

a. began over Johnson's dissatisfaction with report of Gen. Carl Schurz; sent Grant to investigate & used his conclusions which were rejected by Congress.

b. Stanton advised Johnson to sign Civil Rights, Freedman's Bureau, & Reconstruction bills. ; opposed amendm. proposing to "exclude all states lately in rebellion from representation in Congress till July. 4, 1870." p. 307.

c. Grant given commission as General.

10. 1866. S. proposed assembly of 'Loyalists of South' to offset Johnson's conventions.

a. Pittsburg meeting; every state in Union represented.

b. letter p. 311 & 312.

12. Wished to retire to private life as soon as country was wholly at peace.

a. Thought also that he would be forced out by Johnson. ; stood in path of Johnson's conspiracy but could not stop treachery.

13. Aug. 5, 1867 - Johnson wrote to him that his resignation would be acceptable.

a. Stanton refused.

p. 321. Note.

b. Aug. 12. J. sent S. letter of suspension & appointed Grant sec. of war ad interim.

p. 321

c. reply to Johnson --> denied right exercised.



c. Grant approved removal of Stanton; accepted position

(1. Meeting of cabinet - Grant made Pres. etc. agree to keep Stanton if Senate would not confirm Grant's appointment.

d. Stanton feared S. was not equal to the place, did not see benefits to be gained from change - yet was silent.

### B. The suspended official -

1. Was penniless and in poor health.

2. Relaxed with family as guest of Samuel Hooper on shores of Cape Cod; visited ex Gov. Smith of Vt.

a. enjoyment of better health.

3. Returned to Washington home.

a. McDardle case.

4. Dec. 12, 1867 - Pres. Johnson gave Senate notice of Stanton's suspension.

a. Stanton - answered - "setting the first precedent in our history of a cabinet officer officially controverting the chief executive before the high advisory body of the U. S. Senate" p. 328.

b. Reasons shown to involve cracked work of Pres.

(1. p. 329 - quote. on reconstruction

5. Senate refused to recognize suspension & appointment of Grant.

6. Stanton resumed duties at war office the next morning.



### C. Sec. of War again -

1. Johnson enraged at Grant's not retaining office at all hazards.
  - a. When Grant refused to disobey Stanton's orders, Pres. assailed him.
2. Feb. 21 - Johnson again notified Stanton that he was removed & was superseded by Gen. Lorenzo Thomas.
  - a. Thomas arrested.
  - b. Impeachment of Johnson advised.
3. Visited by delegation of Congressmen asking him not to resign.
4. Impeachment of Johnson failed
5. Stanton recognized as Sec. of War by everyone except President.
  - a. Felt that verdict of 'not guilty' for Johnson was his own conviction.
6. Relinquished charge of War Dept May 26, 1868; placed things in hands of Major Gen. Townsend.
7. May 29 - Gen. John M. Schofield - confirmed as sec. of war.
8. Congress - passed resolution of gratitude; presented to Congress.
9. S. - in feeble health; borrowed money.

### D. Office episodes -

1. p. 347. reprieves
2. " 350 - 51
3. p. 353.
4. p. 366 - generals.

### E. His religion as a war force.

1. D. 371 - April 9 - 1862.
2. Firm believer in faith & prayer
3. Baptized March 30, 1869.

## 2. Friendships & Politics

### 1. With Grant -

a. p. 383.

### 2. With Lincoln -

a. p. 385.

3. "Generals Grant, Sheridan & Butler - all war Democrats - testify that Stanton more than once urged upon them the necessity of military success in order to favorably influence on-coming elections, and he never failed to contribute to the defeat of candidates not known to be in sympathy with the war." p. 391.

4. "Although Mr. Stanton despised politics," says Chas. A. Dana, "he was altogether the best politician in the Lincoln administration. He fully understood the temper of the masses; knew what fruit each act would bear and looked to the possible consequences of every step before it was taken. Still, he kept partisanship thoroughly out of the War Dept. & used politics and politicians only to help the Govt." p. 393-4.

## 3. Retirement

### A. Favored Grant for election 1868.

1. Speech at Steubenville <sup>Sept.</sup> p. 394-5.

2. Aroused enthusiasm in Pittsburg in Oct.

a. rehearsed many of his close relations with Lincoln

### B. Return home to rest.

1. Health slowly improved.

2. Court case in St. Va. p. 402.



3. July - 1869 - was ordered to Rocky Mts. by Dr.; compromised on Mt. Wachusett, Mass.

a. no benefit; went to Wolfboro, N.H.

b. entertained by friend S. Hooper at Cape Cod.; prolonged life.

4. Relapse after Whitney vs. Mowry case - Dec. 12 - '69.

Q. Offered justiceship in Supreme Court.

1. Stanton extremely pleased, thought new stimulus would do much to cure him.

2. Appointment confirmed by Senate Dec. 20.

3. "During the afternoon of the 20<sup>th</sup> - a cold, damp, & windy day - Stanton arose from his bed, and, in spite of the protests of his physician and the members of his family, drove to the White House to return the Pres.'s call and to thank him personally for the appointment."

a. acceptance was written. p. 407.

4. Quick relapse suffered.; Stanton never saw his commission

5. Died on morning of Dec. 24 - 1869.

a. no display at funeral - his wish.

b. buried in Oak Hill Cemetery - overlooking the Potomac.

6. Left Mrs. Stanton wasting away with consumption.

7. Will -

1.  $\frac{1}{3}$  entire estate to aged mother

2. nothing to oldest son, Edwin

8. testimonial fund made family comfortable.



## VI. Character -

1. "Much as he loved and trusted certain men, he really trusted no man fully". p. 414.

## Achievements

1. 'He established, by the ever famous Wheeling Bridge Case, national sovereignty over all internal navigable waters'. p. 20
2. Settled, by the Pa. State Canal & Railway Cases, the right of the people to control all methods of public transportation;
3. Prevented the army of Calif. claimants from looting the Pacific coast.
4. By main strength upset Pres. Buchanan's negotiations with the secession "commissioners" and wrecked the well-matured plans of the South to peaceably dismember the Union.
5. In 1862, as Sec., caused the War Dept. to be born again.
6. Induced Lincoln to assert the supremacy which the constitution gave to him as Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy.
7. Created the prodigious industrial era which made America what it is, by canceling all contracts for foreign-made goods and prohibiting the purchase of any except home-made articles for the military forces;
8. Inaugurated military promotions for merit.
9. Plunged so-called "neutral" and disloyal employees out of the public service;
10. Smote corrupt contractors, hip & thigh, and relentlessly whipped thieves and robbers out of the army;
11. Organized the Military Telegraph and



Military Railway systems as independent despotisms:

12. Suggested a plan to Gen. B. F. Butler to capture H. O. and it was captured.
13. Conceived and personally commanded the capture of Norfolk and the blockade of the James River.
14. Conceived, created, & sent forward the independent navy of 38 rams & mortar boats which cleared the upper Miss of insurgent crafts & held Memphis.
15. Conceived the Confiscation Act.
16. Armed and employed the slaves of rebellious masters to save the Union despite the opposition of Lincoln, the cabinet, and the officers of the regular army.
17. Crowded L. until he was compelled to sign the Emancipation Proclamation.
18. Rescued the starving Army of the Cumberland at Chattanooga and saved the middle West. <sup>P. 20.</sup>
19. Resolutely provided for the safety of Washington and thus insured a stable Govt. to prosecute the war for the Union. <sup>P. 21.</sup>
20. Adhered to and protected Grant when the clamor was furious against him and promoted him continually until he became president.
21. Conceived the Trumbull amendment of the const. which wiped out slavery forever;



22. Adroitly prevented Lincoln from being snared by the insurgent commissioners at the Hampton Roads "peace conference".
23. Prevented Lincoln and Grant from giving away the fruits of victory in the terms of surrender to Lee.
24. Prevented the rehabilitation of secession by causing the recall of Lincoln's permit to reassemble the insurgent legislature of Va. after the surrender of Lee.
25. Prevented the recrudescence of secession on a civil basis by annulling the Sherman- Johnston- Davis terms of surrender.
26. Acted as Pres., Sec. of War, Sec. of State, Commander-in-Chief of the armies, Chief of Police, Dictator, and national muzzler at the murder of Lincoln, and slept not until the assassins were captured.
27. So put Grant, Meade, and other commanders on record under oath and in writing and so preserved the official history of the Rebellion that calumny & falsehood were rendered innocuous to him forever;
28. Conceived and successfully began reconstruction along the lines finally adopted by Congress & confirmed by the courts;
29. Prevented Pres. Johnson from

seizing the army and bringing on  
another revolution & then, having  
saved the country from disaster  
thrice and thrice again, laid down  
in poverty, worn out, and died."

p. 21.

## Significance of Stanton .

1. "He was the dominating spirit and power in the quaking Republic during nearly seven of its most tumultuous & eventful years. Everybody knew and felt it then - not only the masses but courts, executive depts., Congress, the markets, maritime operations, disloyal not less than loyal States, and the White House". p. 19 - Blower
2. Far-sighted; comprehensive mind.
3. Man of ability



